



Correspondent's Corner

On the Servant Who Healed Another's Servant

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The Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah 42:1-4 is one of many prophecies in Isaiah that are about the person and work of Jesus Christ. The four verses at the beginning of Isaiah

chapter forty two introduce us, by the declaration of God, to "Behold My Servant". Then in the New Testament in Philippians 2:7 it is written of Jesus that he "took upon him the form of a servant". In the word "form" there is the idea of character or nature. Nevertheless we are left with no doubt that when God's Son left Heaven to come into the world he did not come to be served, but to serve. This brings to mind one of the times when Jesus displayed the character of a servant in John 13:4-17. It was at the Passover meal that Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples' feet. He then spoke to them of the lessons he was teaching to them at that time. One of the things he spoke to his disciples about was his example of his taking the place of a servant.

Now to get to the servant who healed another's servant. In Luke 7:1-10 we read that Jesus entered into Capernaum. There was a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick, and ready to die. When the centurion heard of Jesus being in the area he sent the elders of the Jews beseeching Jesus to come and heal his servant. When the elders of the Jews came to Jesus they pleaded with him to come right away. The elders told Jesus that this centurion had done some very kind things for the Jewish people in Capernaum. Then we read that Jesus went with them to go to see the servant.

While they were in the way and coming close, the centurion sent friends to tell Jesus that he was not worthy for the Lord to come into his home. And that neither was he worthy to come before Jesus either. To this Jesus responded that he had not seen so great faith, no, not in Israel.

A centurion is a Roman soldier who was over 100 men and had authority given to him from Caesar. The Romans were ruling this little country of Israel. The Israelites were given some liberties but were at that time subject to Rome. There were some of the Roman authorities who were friendly with the Jews but there were some who were ruthless.

Now in these circumstances was what the son of God found to be the structure of the Jewish lot of those times. It was one of the many factors that Jesus had to take into consideration as he taught the people and did his Father's will.

Jesus was kind, and willing to help all people, so he found doors of opportunity open to him for service. Luke 7:10 ends the account with “they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick”.

We’re not told that the centurion trusted Christ as his own personal saviour nor are we told more about the servant that was healed. But we are told more about the other servant who healed the centurion’s servant. It is said of God’s servant in Philippians 2:7-9, “But (he) made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name”.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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