



74th Year

June 28, 2026

Pamphlet #26 (3813)

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Matthew 8:5-13)

Faith that saves

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

THE FAITH OF THE CENTURION AS A MEASURE OF FAITH IN GOD

There is nothing more powerful than living faith, in which neither hesitation nor doubt can find a place, nor anything stronger than hope and firm confidence in God. Since faith is not

only the beginning of the spiritual life but also the gate, the path that leads to life, that is, to the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul points out, faith gives substance to what we hope for and provides proof of what we do not see: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Very aptly, Saint Gregory the Theologian explains: "If everything were visible, where would faith be? Tell me. For faith is the unquestioning acceptance."

The centurion in our Gospel passage was an officer of the Roman army who had under his command one hundred soldiers. His heart was filled with faith and love for Christ and, of course, with love for his fellow man, since these two cannot be separated in the Gospel ethic and the ecclesial way of life (1 John 4:19-21).

The living faith of the centurion and the unbelief of people

As recorded in the Gospels, the Lord expressed amazement and wonder on two occasions: He "marveled." The first concerned the unbelief of His fellow countrymen, the people of Nazareth, because of which He did not wish to perform any miracle there (Mark 6:5-6). The second concerns the case of the centurion in our passage, at whose faith He marveled, even though this man was a Gentile, a pagan. The centurion showed absolute trust in Christ, for this reason, his faith is characterized as radiant and living. When a person does not entrust everything to the Lord of Glory, then faith remains at the level of a theory, an idea, or a tradition of customs and habits, without inner depth or spiritual content. However, faith is first and foremost a matter of the heart. For this reason, it is a spiritual failing to hastily and superficially label our fellow human beings as atheists, heretics, enemies of the faith, idolaters, or sinners, since it is not possible for us to know the hidden faith that may exist in the depths of their being, and which, with God's favor, may one day blossom.

An example to imitate

The centurion, whose faith in the Lord was evidently formed by what he had seen and heard about Him, is revealed as a model of a faithful person; thus, he also guides every person of good will toward a living relationship and communion with Christ. In addition to his radiant faith, his love and concern for his servant are admirable. He implores Christ for the healing of his servant as if he were pleading for one of his own children especially in an era of blatant injustice and exploitation, particularly of servants and slaves. The centurion recognizes the person regardless of social status, because faith and love help him overcome the limitations and negative influences of his social environment.

Self-knowledge, humble-mindedness

Next, we must point out his remarkable self-knowledge and humble-mindedness. As a Roman officer, he possesses the power of authority, which, however, does not blind his mind; therefore, he is able to perceive the immeasurable inner distance between himself and Christ God. Self-knowledge leads him to knowledge of God (Fr. G. Metallinos). Thus, he confesses: "Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof," a phrase that the Church has included in the beautiful prayer we read before approaching Communion. Finally, the centurion, not only before the Lord but also before those present, confesses his sinfulness without excuses or pretexts, and recognizes Christ as Savior and Redeemer, who by His almighty word can grant salvation even from afar. And with humility he confesses the divinity of the Lord, because he believes in the creative and miraculous word of Christ. Let us pray that our faith in the divinity of Christ and our trust in His word may also work wonders in our own lives.

Archimandrite N. K.

June 28, 2026: 4th Sunday of Matthew
Exhumation of the relics of the Holy Unmercenary Saints
Cyrus and John (412).

3rd Tone – Eothinon: 4 – Epistle: Romans 6:18-23
– Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

NEXT SUNDAY: July 5, 5th Sunday of Matthew
Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2 – Gospel: Matthew 8:28-9:1

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