

February 13

## *Great Faith for a Dear Friend*

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Then they cry to Yahweh in their trouble,  
he saves them out of their distresses.  
He sends his word, and heals them,  
and delivers them from their graves.

Let them praise Yahweh for his loving kindness,  
for his wonderful works to the children of men! — Psalm 107:19-21

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[Luke 7:1-10] After he had finished speaking in the hearing of the people, he entered into Capernaum. A certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and paralyzed, grievously tormented, and at the point of death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and save his servant. When they came to Jesus, they begged him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy for you to do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he built our synagogue for us." Jesus went with them. When he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying to him, "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. Therefore I didn't even think myself worthy to come to you; but say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also

*I have not found such great faith...in Israel*

am a man placed under authority, having under myself soldiers. I tell this one, 'Go!' and he goes; and to another, 'Come!' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude who followed him, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith, no, not even in Israel. I tell you that many will come from the east and the west, and will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven, but the children of the Kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way. Let it be done for you as you have believed." Those who were sent, returning to the house, found that the servant who had been sick was healed in that hour [Matthew 8:5:13].

1. Who are your dear friends? What are their needs? How can you help or pray for them?
2. In what way did the centurion have great faith? What keeps your faith from being great?
3. Dear Jesus, you called me your friend and do all things to help me; today I will be a...

