

THE CENTURION OF CAPERNAUM

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Theme: Life changing faith

Episode 6 of 7

Part 1: THEY MET THE MASTER SERIES

(STORIES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO MET JESUS)

CTTW SHORT DRAMA PROGRAMS W/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CHRISTIAN RADIO DRAMA

“THE STORY WITHIN”

006



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Part 1: They Met the Master Series
Episode 6 of 7: The Centurion of
Capernaum
Christ to the World Ministries

DIRECTORIAL INFORMATION

CAST OF CHARACTERS: (note voice quality required)

- **Each voice should be recognizably different from any other character.**
- **Some characters appear in multiple episodes of this series. Use the same voice for the same character.**

Felix: **Servant** (voice of a mature man)
Marcus: **Roman centurion** (voice of a mature man)
Jacob **Servant** (voice of a young man)
Jesus: **The promised Messiah** (voice of a mature man)
Voices: **For sound effects** (men, women, and children)

Notes to all readers:

- These are radio **dramas**. The actions and emotions are in the words. Remember that the listener will only hear these words once; speak distinctly with appropriate emotion; carefully observe all punctuation (i.e., pause at commas, stop at periods, intensify at exclamation points, and give special emphasis to words in **bold** type).
- Observe all **music** cues (bold/small print) throughout the script.
- Observe **sound effects**_directions (bold print) throughout the script.
- Observe all **voice** instructions (bold print) throughout the script.
- When Scripture is used, the print is in *italics*, and it is the NIV (1984). Scripture references are given to aid the translators and should not be read as part of the script.

THE CENTURION OF CAPERNAUM

Scripture References: Mt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

(Music: Theme music begins, then gradually fades to underscoring during comments by Program Host. Note to producer: Limit theme music not to exceed 12-14 seconds.)

Program Host

Welcome to “The Story Within.” Today’s drama tells us about the centurion of Capernaum, a man who “Met the Master.” It is based on the gospels of Matthew and Luke in the Bible. Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry, He traveled the countryside teaching, healing, and sharing God’s truth with those He encountered. From time to time, He returned to His residence in Capernaum. On one such occasion, a centurion, a Roman officer who commands 100 soldiers, asked Jesus to heal his servant who was paralyzed, in great pain, and near death.

The centurion was well known and respected by the people of that area. Unlike many in authority, he showed compassion for his servants. He also helped the people of Israel who were under the Roman government’s control. He went so far as to build a synagogue for the Israelites. Therefore, when people learned of his request for his servant’s healing, they urged Jesus to grant his request.

The centurion also displayed great faith and humility. Rather than asking Jesus to go to his house to heal his servant, the centurion said he was not worthy for Jesus to enter his house. He told Jesus to say the word, and his servant would be healed.

The centurion, a man of power and authority, demonstrated respect for and faith in Jesus' far greater power and authority.

Jesus honored the centurion's request and healed his servant. He also used this incident as a teachable moment for those around Him. He commended the centurion's faith, a faith greater than He had encountered even among those from the people of Israel.

Listen now as Felix, the name chosen for the centurion's servant, tells us his story.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Felix – Storyteller)

Unlike many in my circumstances, I have lived a privileged life. Marcus, my master since my childhood, has treated me more like a son than a servant. I have never gone hungry. I have never been beaten or berated. All my needs and many wants have been met. I have grown to love and respect Marcus more than any person I have ever met. I doubt that he has a cruel bone in his body.

Not only does he oversee his family and servants with respect and compassion, he guides the 100 soldiers under his command in the same manner. Don't get me wrong. He definitely demands their obedience and respect. Yet, he displays the same respect for them that he requires. As a result, his men listen to and follow him better than any officer I have encountered.

Marcus also shows that same attitude toward the non-Roman citizens among us.

When he saw the need, he built a synagogue for the people of Israel. Everyone knows the Israelites would overthrow the Roman government in a minute, if they could. Yet, they love Marcus and would do anything in their power for him.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Marcus: Felix, are you out here?

Felix: **(walks quickly toward Marcus)** Yes, sir. I just finished a couple of repairs on the side of the house, but I think I need to mend the roof as well.

Marcus: Oh, okay. Never mind then. I will check with you about this other tomorrow. Your roof repair probably needs to be finished first. Glad you noticed it.

Felix: So am I. We would probably have had a mess in a few days.

INSERT: **(Sound effects: Marcus' footsteps retreat. Felix begins up the steps on the side of the house but stumbles near the top. Felix cries for help just before he crashes to the ground. Marcus runs back toward Felix.)**

Marcus: Felix, are you okay? **(progressively louder)** Felix, can you hear me?

Felix!

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Felix continues his story)

I was definitely not okay. Knocked unconscious and paralyzed by my fall, I never heard Marcus calling. I never knew when the other servants helped him move me into the house. I never realized Marcus helped attend to my medical needs personally except when his military duties called him away.

When I finally did awaken, I longed for my previous unconsciousness state. The pain was unbearable, and I knew I could not last long in that condition.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Marcus: **Felix!** You are awake! Jacob, quickly, bring something to drink!

INSERT: **(Sound effects: Jacob runs, pours water, and returns with it.)**

Marcus: **(softly but firmly)** Here you go, Felix. Take just a sip.

INSERT: **(Sound effects: Felix groans, sips water, and falls back on his bed.)**

Marcus: You gave us quite a scare. I should never have allowed you to climb to the roof. You had already worked hard in the hot sun all day. I should have known better.

Felix: **(weakly, with great effort)** It is not your fault, sir. **(pause)** I am sorry, but I don't think I will be able to finish the job anytime soon.

Marcus: **(nervous laughter)** Don't even think about that, Felix. You concentrate on getting well.

Jacob: Excuse me, sir. I don't mean to intrude, but I wonder if Jesus might be able to help Felix.

Marcus: What did you say, Jacob?

Jacob: I said I wonder if Jesus might be able to help Felix.

Marcus: Jesus? Who is Jesus?

Jacob: He is a great Teacher and Preacher. He travels a lot but has just returned to Capernaum.

Marcus: **(impatiently)** So, exactly how can a traveling preacher help Felix?

Jacob: Jesus is also a Healer. He has made the blind to see and the lame to walk. Jesus has healed lepers and people with a multitude of other problems.

Marcus: Have you seen this for yourself, Jacob?

Jacob: Not all of it, sir, but I have met Jesus and have seen His work. I know you do not believe in our God, sir, but many of us believe Jesus is our promised Messiah. I believe Jesus is our Savior sent from God.

Marcus: **(surprised)** I see.

Felix: **(weakly)** I have never met Him, sir, but I have also heard great things about Him. Whether they are true or not, I don't know. **(groans)** I hate to bother you, but, please try. **(near tears)** I don't think I can stand this much longer. If Jesus cannot help, please, **(pleading)** just let me die. **(groans)**

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Felix continues his story)

I hated to trouble Marcus. I knew he had more important things to do than attend to a servant's needs. Nevertheless, I was desperate. The pain and paralysis from my fall left me helpless and hopeless. There was no way I could live with that level of constant pain, nor did I want to.

Marcus, the kindest master a servant could want, dropped everything. He told his assistant to take control of the 100 soldiers he commanded, and he left to find Jesus.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

INTERMISSION

Program Host: Thank you for listening to “The Story Within.” Our story will continue in a moment. Felix, the servant of Marcus, a Roman centurion, was very sick and at the point of death. Marcus had heard that Jesus had power to heal the sick. He rushed to get to Jesus. Let us continue the story and see what happened.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Marcus: **(runs toward Jesus, out of breath)** *“Lord,”* Jesus, *“my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering”* (Mt. 8:6).

INSERT: **(Sound effects: Crowd murmurs in sympathy, pleading for Jesus' healing. Someone calls out, “This man deserves to have you do this], because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue” [Luke 7:4-5].)**

Jesus: *“I will go and heal him?”* (Mt. 8:7).

Marcus: *“Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it”* (Mt. 8:8-9).

Jesus: **(turns to crowd)** *“I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith”* (Mt. 8:10).

INSERT: **(Sound effects: Crowd murmurs in agreement.)**

Jesus: Marcus, *“Go! It will be done just as you believed it would”* Mt. 8:13).

INSERT: **(Sound effects: Crowd murmurs in amazement and approval.)**

Marcus: **(falls to knees before Jesus)** Thank You, my Lord. Thank You.
Thank You.

INSERT: **(Sound effect: Marcus runs from Jesus and the crowd.)**

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Felix continues his story)

After Marcus left to find Jesus, I lay on my bed praying for relief, whether from healing, unconsciousness, or death. I simply wanted the pain to go away. I did not care how that happened. Never one to shed tears, I could not keep them from coming. I could sense the sympathy and fear from those who tried to help me while Marcus was gone. Yet, they remained as helpless as I was in easing my suffering.

Just as I thought I could not stand another minute, the pain suddenly disappeared.

My head and body no longer hurt. I could move my arms and legs. It was as though the accident never happened. Tentatively, I sat on the side of the bed.

Everything worked, and nothing ached. The eyes of my attending servants grew round as water pots. When I stood, they stared in amazement and then danced, laughed, and called for everyone to come and see.

No one could believe it. I could not believe it. Yet, there I stood. After a couple of steps, I joined their dancing and celebrating. I wish you could have seen Marcus' face when he entered the house.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

INSERT: (Sound effects: Marcus runs to Felix.)

Marcus: (out of breath, excited) Felix! Jesus said you were healed, but I never expected anything like this!

Felix: (laughs) Neither did I, sir! Yet, look, **(pause)** and it happened in an instant. One moment I was lying there wishing for death. The next thing I knew, all the pain and suffering disappeared. It was gone, like the fall never happened.

Marcus: When Jacob told me about Jesus' healing power, I honestly doubted it could be true. Yet, his faith was so great, I had to see for myself.
(pause) By the way, where is Jacob? I want to thank that young man.

Felix: (laughs) He is on his way to find you. He wanted to let you know the good news. You must have missed one another in the crowd.

Marcus: As soon as he returns, you tell him I want to see him. I want to thank him for telling me about Jesus.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Felix continues his story)

Just like that, in a moment's time, my life changed, all because of Jesus.

Jacob had met Jesus and believed in Him. I had heard of Jesus but never met Him.

Marcus had no idea who Jesus was. Yet, He changed all our lives.

What if Jacob had never said anything about Jesus? What if Marcus had closed his mind to the possibility of Jesus being who Jacob believed He was? What would have happened to me?

But Jacob did share his faith. And Marcus listened to the possibility that Jesus really is God's Promised One. And I was healed because of the humble faith of those two men.

No longer content to rely on their belief, I want to meet Jesus for myself. I want to thank Him for healing me. More important, I want to know what Jacob means when he calls Jesus the Savior, the Promised One of God.

(Music: Dramatic music swells; then begins reprise of Theme music; softly underscore comments of program host during Our Response to God)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Program Host

Many people recognize their need for a relationship with God through study. Some receive God's revelation through dreams. Many learn about God's plan for their lives because someone else cares enough to tell them about Jesus. That is what Jacob did for Marcus and Felix.

Marcus was a good man with a good heart, yet he was not perfect. No one is. When Jacob told him about Jesus, Marcus acted. Although Marcus initially approached Jesus on Felix's behalf, Jesus recognized his personal faith and responded to that. Jesus saw and met the needs in both of their lives.

Jesus also waits for us to take that first step toward Him. He wants to meet the needs in each of our lives. Then He wants us to reach out to others around us, telling them of the power and presence He offers.

Now we come to the time when we can respond to God.

God loves you and me with an eternal love. But our sins have separated us from God. The righteous and holy God has made a way that our sins can be forgiven. That way is through Jesus Christ.

Jesus died for our sins. He rose from the dead and is alive today. He has power to come into our lives and forgive sins and bring eternal salvation.

Forgiveness of sins and eternal life is the free gift of God. We do not work for it; we receive it as a gift. To receive forgiveness and eternal life, we must turn from

our sins and place our faith and trust in Jesus and receive Him into our lives as Savior and Lord.

I'm going to pray a brief prayer from my heart to God. Listen to my prayer, and then when I have prayed, I will lead you to pray the same prayer.

Dear Father, I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming into my life. Amen.

Now pray the prayer aloud after me. We will pray it a portion at a time. Make the prayer your very own to God. Mean it with all your heart as you pray.

Dear Father, (pause for listener to repeat)

I now turn from my sins. (pause for listener to repeat)

I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. (pause for listener to repeat)

From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming into my life. (pause for listener to repeat)

Amen. (pause for listener to repeat)

Welcome into the family of God! In the next program we will learn how to grow as a follower of Christ. The next episode will be a drama about “The Woman Who Anointed Jesus’ Feet.”

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Questions and Answers

The Questions and Answers below are designed to be used following the broadcast of the drama. They are questions a typical listener might have after listening to the drama. The number of questions used will of course depend upon the amount of air time available at the conclusion of the drama. It may not be necessary to use all of the questions provided. Voices used for the questions should include: male and female; young and old; believers and non-believers. The Program Host should give all the answers to the questions.

Try to make both questions and answers conversational in nature.

The questions should be asked in a forthright manner. Persons asking the questions should reflect different attitudes and positions. Most of the questioners should reflect an openness and honest desire for the truth; some should reflect deep concern; some should reflect anxiety; some could reflect sarcasm or unbelief; some could even reflect anger. Occasionally a voice antagonistic to Christ and the Gospel could ask one of the questions.

The Program Host should use warm and friendly language and tone of voice. He should never talk down to a questioner in a demeaning fashion regardless of the question asked. He should never express shock or surprise at the question asked. He should speak in a manner that puts the questioner at ease. Some producers might want to use names. For example, a question might begin with: "My name is _____. Could you explain . . ." or "My name is _____. Here is my question: . . ." The Program Host could use the person's name in answering the question. The use of names is at the producer's option.

The Questions and Answers could begin by the Program Host saying: "Thank you for listening to this drama. Now let us go to some questions that listeners like yourself have about what we have heard."

1. Question: Who was a centurion?

Answer: A centurion was an officer in the Roman army, usually in charge of 100 men.

2. Question: I thought the Jews hated the Romans. Why did they like the centurion?

Answer: The centurion was a good man. He befriended the Jews. He built a synagogue for them.

3. Question: Why did the centurion build a synagogue for the people?

Answer: The centurion reached out to the Jews and became friends with them. He was a good man. He wanted to help them, so he built a synagogue for them.

4. Question: Will a person go to heaven by doing good works?

Answer: No, good works will not enable a person to go to heaven. The only way a person can go to heaven is by trusting Jesus as Savior. God/s Word says: *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). Jesus said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6).

5. Question: If good works do not help us go to heaven, then why bother to do them?

Answer: Jesus went about doing good and if we are serious about following Him we will also want to do good things and live a life pleasing to Him. We do not do good works in order to become a child of God; we do good works because we **are** a child of God.

6. Question: Can Jesus really transform my life? I am old and have lived a very sinful life and have no hope for the future.

Answer: Jesus can transform any life, young or old. If you will turn from your sin and place your faith and trust in Jesus, He will come into your life and make you a new person. God’s Word says: *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come”* (2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus can cleanse you from all your sins and give you hope for the future. He will be with you and help you as you live for Him.

7. Question: Will God answer my prayers if I am disobedient to Him?

Answer: What would be your own answer to that question? Disobedience to Him is a sin. We should confess all of our sins to Him and ask His forgiveness. Then we are in a position to pray for our needs. We cannot expect God to hear us when we willfully disobey Him.

8. Question: Exactly what does it mean to follow Jesus? Jesus is not here for me to follow.

Answer: To follow Jesus is to be a believer in Him, to trust Him as Savior. It means that we obey His teachings Jesus said, *“If you love me, you will obey what I command”* (John 14:15).

9. Question: How can I know what Jesus commands?

Answer: We learn of His commands as we read and study God’s Word. We can summarize His commands by saying: We are to love God with all of our heart and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Thank you for listening and taking part in this program. May God be with you and keep you safe.

(Music: Theme music swells dramatically; then fades as broadcast ends)

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