

THREE EVALUATIONS OF THE SAME MAN

Text: Luke 7:1-10

INTRO: In this passage we see one man as viewed from three different angles.

I. THE EVALUATION OF THE CENTURION'S NEIGHBORS.

A. Here we have the estimation of a group who knew the man well. He lived among them. They had a golden opportunity to know him well.

B. Obstacles they had to overcome in order to evaluate him as an individual.

1. He was a Gentile, a foreigner. Jews had no more dealings with Gentiles than was necessary.

2. He was an agent for the despised Roman government

3. But obviously he was a good & compassionate man as indicated in vs. 2-3.

C. The evaluation of his Jewish neighbors, vs. 3-5.

1. He is worthy.

2. He loves our nation. To the average Gentile the Jewish nation was not very lovable.

3. He built us a synagogue. Had respect for Jewish religion. Probably a God-fearer.

II. THE CENTURION'S EVALUATION OF HIMSELF, vs. 6-8.

A. Not worthy...

1. To come to You... or

2. To have You come into my house. Acts 10:28

3. Reminds us of Paul's estimate of himself.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God. (1 Cor 15:9).

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief. (1 Tim 1:15).

- B. I understand authority.
 - 1. I am under the authority of others.
 - 2. I have others under me.

- C. Why did he evaluate himself less than the Jews valued him?
 - 1. Knew the weaknesses, temptations, etc., that the Jews knew nothing about.

 - 2. The better a man is, the loftier his ideals. Example: Paul, John B. The better a person understands God's will the more readily he can see his own imperfections.

- D. But one thing for sure--he believed in the authority of Jesus.

III. JESUS' EVALUATION OF THIS MAN, vs. 9-10.

- A. Jesus marveled at the Centurion's great faith. On only one other occasion was Jesus said to have marveled--at the unbelief of the people of Nazareth, Mark 6:6.

- B. The Centurion received the blessing he sought.

CONCLUSION: Three or more estimates of one character are not un-usual. All these 3 were right from their respective viewpoints. Of them, of course, the Lord's evaluation is most important. If the Lord approves it makes little difference about others. If the Lord disapproves, it makes little difference about others. Those who do God's will shall be approv-ed by the Lord, Acts 10:34-35. Whatever else we do or fail to do is of relatively little consequence. Matt. 7:21-23.

La Porte, TX, October 2, 1983

Exton, PA, April 12, 1987

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 21, 1993

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 20, 1998