

Imperfect #3
A Moment of Crisis

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 7:1-10

Discussion Questions

1. Everyone goes through a life crisis. What usually triggers or causes it? Discuss.
2. How do you deal with crisis, especially in the context of reaching out to those who need Christ? How do you display your faith in the unbelieving world so that others see that you are different? What kind of faith causes people who see you to come to Christ and be made perfect in Him? Read Luke 7:1-10. In Capernaum, a Roman centurion experienced a moment of crisis that led him to desperately ask Jesus for help (v. 1-2). (A centurion is a commander of about 800 Roman soldiers). There are two things about life crisis that we need to understand:
 - a. First, our faith is often tested when we are in crisis. It is at a moment of crisis when we are attuned to spiritual matters and sensitive to spiritual counsel. Discuss how you, as a Christian friend, family member, co-worker or classmate, can be a minister as a spiritual guide to those who are in crisis? Share a personal testimony how God had used your faith and spiritual guidance to step in as an encourager to someone who was in crisis.
 - b. Secondly, everyone goes through crisis regardless of their position. Even those we consider social elites have the same spiritual needs. No matter your social status or accomplishments, you are still a human being with the same felt needs as others. What presumptions do you usually have about people who are in higher positions, or about the rich and famous? As a believer aiming to bring people to Christ, how you can reach out to them? Share and discuss.

3. When a person experiences a life crisis, it results in desperate actions (v. 3-5). Whom did the centurion send to present his appeal to Jesus? What caused the centurion to do it? Why were the elders so willing to approach Jesus and ask Him to honor their appeal on behalf of the centurion? Why would their request to Jesus have wrong notions? Do you think that out of desperation, you are capable of trying to buy Jesus' favor? Discuss why your past good actions can not be used as bargaining chips when you appeal to Jesus?
4. The centurion didn't appeal to Jesus personally, but in the centurion's belief that Jesus could heal his servant even without physically being present, Jesus saw the kind of faith the centurion had (v. 6-10). The centurion's faith demonstrates two actions you must show to those who are in crisis in order to reach them for Jesus and for them to know that there are solutions to their problems:
 - a. First is a faith that recognizes the worthiness of Jesus and your own unworthiness (v. 6-7). Why did the centurion stop Jesus from going to his home? What can you say about the centurion's faith in spite of his high position? How do you view your own worthiness in comparison to that of Jesus? Does your pride hinder you from coming to Christ? Do you tell Jesus what to do instead of trusting Him to do what He can do?
 - b. Second is a faith that recognizes the authority of God (v. 9-10). What did the centurion understand about authority? How have you demonstrated that the unwavering Christ is Lord of your life? In what areas have you given Him authority over your life?

Walk

Jesus was amazed at the faith of the centurion. He did not go to the centurion's home, but still the centurion's servant was healed. The centurion's faith was rewarded in a time of crisis (v. 9-10). What happens when you rest on God? Take time to assess your faith to see if it recognizes your own unworthiness and lead you to fully recognize the worthiness of Jesus and His authority.

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, I am unworthy to be in Your presence, but through the shed blood of Christ You see me as worthy to be called Your child. Many times I have failed and chose to disobey Your will, yet through Christ you have forgiven me and given me second chances. I doubt Your plans, yet You still choose to bless me. Thank You, Father. Forgive me for my sins and my imperfections. I pray for the strength of will to trust when life's crises push me to doubt You. I pray for a broken, contrite, and humble spirit that lets You lead. I pray for a gentle and compassionate heart that brings people to You. In Christ's name. Amen.