

## Be the Centurion!

Matthew 8:5-13. NKJV

Well, obviously, since I used ducks as an analogy recently, I feel we can learn a lot from a duck to illustrate scriptural meaning, except this one is very different. This one is meant to speak to the potential of our faith. At the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, TN, you may have heard of an entertaining sight that occurs twice a day - a flock of ducks ride an elevator from the hotel rooftop to something akin to their own penthouse. They emerge from the elevator to walk a fine, red carpet that leads to the famous Peabody fountain in the ornate, marble lobby. They march, in their own way, and people line the carpet every day they do, fascinated and amused by this tradition. For a moment, we forget one simple fact - they're just ducks! Not the Queen of England, or the Governor or a celebrity. We don't have to like them at all - still, most of us do. Something to do with the attitude; combination of a waddle and strut down the carpet. The rather lowly duck has made the Peabody famous far and wide, rather astonishing feat for a duck. Sometimes the least becomes the focus. The point - don't underestimate the least of us in Jesus' eyes. This Centurion did the same in that respect. He regarded his servants with greater value than simple servitude. In that day, many masters didn't care if servants lived or died - just whether they could do their job. Yet this Centurion asks Jesus for his servant's healing, and then he does something unheard of - he knows all he must do is ask. Jesus offers to go to the servant, but the Centurion knows that with Jesus, no such trip is necessary. He recognizes the power of Jesus. He knows Jesus has no need to go to his house, on Jesus' busy schedule, to work this miracle for this servant. This faith astonishes even Jesus. Can you imagine astonishing Jesus - astonishing the Son of God? Let's seek to do the same this week! Be the Centurion!