

## 7-14-19 Entrusting Our Lives in Christ's Hands

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In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The centurion was in charge of 100 soldiers. He must have known to make a decision with his gut feeling based on his life experience. Since his profession demanded it, more than logic or ideas. The centurion's faith is more like a total confidence in Christ or deep unshakeable trust. It is neither rationale or emotional, but an attitude of trusting someone who is greater than himself.

When Christ responded to the centurion's request, his loving concern for his servant was surely in his scope. Like he was once moved for the bed ridden man, who moved the roof for him to get close to Christ, he was greatly touched by the centurion's loving concerns for his servant. Here we remember the words of St. Paul about love we just heard.

"How great our faith is, it does not mean a thing if we do not have love." Our loving concerns to others with a centurion's faith moves our Lord's heart. How strong our faith is, without our love towards others, our prayers would be remain as dry sound of lip service which may reach Lord's ears but never reaches his heart.

It is good to remember this fact when we feel like Lord God never hears us or he's all silent, although we offer our prayers diligently. The centurion's response to Christ reveals his deep insight of trusting someone who is greater. He intuitively saw that Christ was someone greater than any man, the one who restores the order of the world, in other words, God. His humility gained Christ's presence in his life.

In the case of Zacheus, Christ actually visited his house, responding to his humility. In the case of the centurion, case healed his servant without his presence, yet the centurion already received him in his house when he expressed his wish. We would totally miss an important point here if we paid too much attention to physicality of Christ's presence in his body. Forgetting the physicality of Christ is that of the one who is greater than we are. The centurion understood the meaning of presence of someone greater than himself.

Our Christian life begins when we entrust our whole life in Christ's hand, realizing his life is greater than ours. We are constantly invited in the physicality of the one who is greater than we are. At the time of baptism we are invited in his life, being placed in the life greater than ours. The baptismal water marks the beginning of a life of holy communion in this sense. We die once for all to begin our life in his hand with a centurion's faith based on our loving heart. Holy communion is another name for this life of entrusting ourselves in Christ's hand. Without volition, we have placed ourselves in his hand with great trust and confidence at the time of baptism. And we are still in his hand. Are we?

In the act of gathering together as the body of Christ each time in partaking of the meal, which Christ our Lord provided as the paschal meal, we make Christ's words and teachings as our flesh and blood, fully entrusting ourselves in his hand. Holy communion is our life together with Christ always participating the life which greater than ours. The joy of receiving holy communion each time brings the joy of being in the hand of the one who is greater than ourselves and this world.

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In order not to make our faith in Christ a blind faith, we should continue learning our life of holy communion in the act of loving others, daily living Christ's words and his teachings, which nourish our gut feeling based on our life experience. Our faith is not a blind faith of justification, but rather the centurion's faith of total confidence with a deep unshakeable trust rooted in holy communion with Christ, or in Christ. It is neither emotional, nor rational because we are only able to gain it by taking up our cross after denying ourselves and placing us in holy communion with Christ or in Christ, participating in the life greater than our life. Amen.

Christ is risen.

Indeed he is risen.

I'm just checking.