



Soldiering: A Biblical Perspective

Lesson 4

Godly Wisdom and Authority (Soldiers in the New Testament)

1. Roman Centurion Asks for a Miracle (Luke 7:1-10 and Matthew 8:5-13)
 - a. What do these two accounts tell us about the character of the Roman centurion serving in Capernaum?
 - b. What is the significance of the fact that the centurion said, "I also am a man under authority?"
 - c. How did Christ respond to his request? Why?
 - d. What are the military and spiritual lessons that we should draw from this encounter?
2. Roman Soldiers Crucify Jesus (Matthew 27:27-37).
 - a. What did the Roman soldiers do to Jesus when Pilate delivered Jesus to them for scourging and crucifixion?
 - b. What does this tell you about how they viewed Jesus?
 - c. How does this contrast with how the Capernaum centurion viewed Jesus?
 - d. Why was there a difference?
 - e. What practical implications does your answer have for being a soldier today?
3. The Centurion at the Foot of the Cross (Matthew 27:51-54, Luke 23:44-47).
 - a. What happened when Jesus gave up His spirit that indicated His was not a normal crucifixion?
 - b. How did the Roman centurion react to this?
 - c. Does this statement indicate a true belief in Christ (1 John 4:15)?
 - d. If so, what does this tell us about God's power to convert sinners?
4. Cornelius, The Centurion of Caesarea (Acts 10:1-48).
 - a. From the description of Cornelius in verses 1-8, what is revealed of his character?
 - b. How was God working in Peter's heart at the same time He touched Cornelius (10:9-22)?
 - c. Why did Cornelius gather his whole family together for Peter's visit (10:19-33)?
 - (1) What does this tell us about the importance of family as the center of our spiritual experience?
 - (2) Is there special application of this for the military?
 - d. What did Peter preach to Cornelius and his family (10:34-43)?
 - e. What happened as a result (10:44-48)?
 - f. What is the significance of God's choosing a soldier to be the first Gentile to hear the Gospel, believe in Christ, receive the Holy Spirit, and be baptized?
 - g. What can we learn from Cornelius' experience?
5. Application. Based on your examination of the above four instances of soldiers in the New Testament, what have you learned about how God deals with soldiers and what He expects from them?

6. Other Soldiers in the New Testament.

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| a. Acts 21:32-40 | Soldiers rescue Paul outside the temple in Jerusalem. |
| b. Acts 22:24-30 | Paul placed into bonds by Roman soldiers. |
| c. Acts 23:23-24 | Roman soldiers escort Paul to Caesarea. |
| d. Acts 24:23 | Paul placed in protective custody. |
| e. Acts 27 | Roman soldiers escort Paul to Rome. |
| f. Acts 28:16 | Paul kept by a Roman soldier. |