

What Do You Seek?

Take-Home: Say the Word (The Centurion)

A standalone deep-dive session

What We Found

A Gentile centurion, the outsider in a uniform, crossed every line in Capernaum to beg a Jewish rabbi's help for a servant. Offered a house call, he declined it with a soldier's logic: I say go, and it happens; a commander's word works at any distance because it carries the authority above it; so "only say the word, and my servant will be healed." Not a feeling, a deduction, and Israel's scriptures had already made it: he sent forth his word, and healed them (Psalm 107:20). Jesus marveled, one of the only times the Gospels record it: not even in Israel had He found such faith, and He announced the consequence on the spot: many will come from east and west to the table with Abraham. The record-setting faith in Matthew belongs to the furthest outsider, and the Church made it her own: at every Roman Rite Mass, seconds before Communion, the whole congregation says this man's sentence: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Voices Worth Keeping

St. Augustine *Sermons (summary)*

By declaring himself unworthy to receive Christ under his roof, the centurion showed himself worthy to receive Christ into his heart.

St. John Chrysostom *Homilies on Matthew (summary)*

The outsider understood Christ's authority more precisely than the crowds who saw the miracles up close, and Jesus publicized a Gentile's faith to teach the insiders.

The Roman Missal *Communion Rite*

"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." One soldier's sentence, on the whole congregation's lips, at every Roman Rite Mass.

Live It This Week

1. Act on one trustworthy word this week without triple-checking it; notice what trust feels like as an act.
2. Tell someone who feels like an outsider around religion, even like the enemy, that this story exists.
3. If you ever visit a Mass, listen for the centurion's sentence just before Communion.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed." **Matthew 8:8**

If You Want More

This session stands alone. If you want another standalone deep-dive, ask your leader about the Zacchaeus session (Luke 19:1-10). Catechism references: CCC 1386, 543, 153.