**“Hard Life & Bold Faith”**

Going deeper in Matthew 8:5-13

**INTRODUCTION** – Matthew shares three stories of Jesus healing. In the following passage Jesus is approached by a Roman Centurion. The Romans were considered unclean by Jews of that time and they were the oppressors. Roman soldiers were the ones who enforced the oppression/occupation. This is what happens:

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*5 When Jesus entered Capernaum, a Roman Centurion came to him pleading for help. 6 “Lord, my son has been paralyzed and is laying on the floor at home. He is tormented with terrible pain.” 7 Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.” 8 The centurion said, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, but just speak a single word and my son will be healed. 9 I am a man under authority and I have soldiers under me. I say to one, “Go,” and he goes; to another, “Come,” and he comes; and to my servant, “Do this,” and he does it. 10 When Jesus heard this he was amazed and he said to those following him, “Amen, I have not found such great faith in all of Israel! 11 I am telling you that this man is an outstanding example of the many outsiders who will come from every direction – streaming in from the east and pouring in from the west to God’s kingdom banquet alongside of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 12 But those who grew up in the faith of the kingdom but have no faith will be thrown out into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 13 Jesus turned to the centurion and said, “Go! What you believed has been done for you.” And his son was healed at that very hour.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Have you ever been in a situation similar to the centurion’s? What was it like for you? What do you think it was like for the centurion?

2. What does the fact that this centurion addresses Jesus as “Lord” tell you about the centurion?

3. Have you ever had someone close to you become very sick and in pain? What does that tell you about what the centurion is experiencing?

4. Jesus is impressed by the centurion’s bold faith. What were the elements of his faith that you can see in this passage? How is the Spirit of God calling you to be more like the centurion?

5. The centurion shows extraordinary faith. How is the Spirit of God calling you to grown in your faith? If you are in a small group, how can you help each other with that?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the LORD Jesus that He hears and responds to all your prayers.

\*Ask Him to show who and what you should be praying for. Lay down before Him the things that He brings to mind.

\*Ask Him to empower you by the Holy Spirit to help you grow in a bold faith like the centurion.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

In his despair the Roman centurion takes a risk and boldly trusts Jesus with what is near and dear to his heart. What will it mean for you to live this week with a bold faith like the centurion?