1. **Roman Centurion Asks for a Miracle**  
(See also *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?

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*Luke 7:1-10*  
1 When He had completed all His discourse in the hearing of the people, He went to Capernaum.  
2 And a certain centurion’s slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die.  
3 And when he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asked Him to come and save the life of his slave.  
4 And when they had come to Jesus, they earnestly entreated Him, saying, “He is worthy for You to grant this to him;  
5 for he loves our nation, and it was he who built us our synagogue.”  
6 Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, “Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof;  
7 for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.  
8 For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.”  
9 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that was following Him, “I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.”  
10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.
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. How do you explain the difference?

e. What practical implications does your answer have for soldiers today?
3. The Centurion at the Foot of the Cross
(Matthew 27:51-55, See also 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 (10:9-18)?

c. Why did Cornelius gather his whole family together for Peter’s visit (Acts 10:19-33)?

Matthew 27:51-55
51 And behold, the veil was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54 Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’ 55 Many women were there looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee while ministering to Him.

Acts 10:1-10
1 Now there was a certain man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, 2 a devout man, and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people, and prayed to God continually. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in to him, and said to him, “Cornelius!” 4 And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and alms have ascended as memorial before God.” 5 And now dispatch some men to Joppa, and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; 6 he is staying with a certain tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea.” 7 And when the angel who was speaking to him had departed, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were in constant attendance upon him, 8 and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. 9 And on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 And he became hungry, and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance;
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(1) What does this tell us about the importance of family in our spiritual experience?

(2) What application does this have for us in 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?

Acts 10:11-31

11 and he beheld the sky opened up, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, 12 and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. 13 A voice came to him, “Arise, Peter, kill and eat!” 14 But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.” 15 And again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.” 16 And this happened three times; and immediately the object was taken up into the sky. 17 Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon’s house, appeared at the gate; 18 and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. 19 And while Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. 20 But arise, go downstairs, and accompany them without misgivings; for I have sent them myself.” 21 And Peter went down to the men and said, “Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?” 22 And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you.” 23 And so he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day he arose and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. 24 And on the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 And when it came about that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshipped him. 26 But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am just a man.” 27 And as he talked with him, he entered, and found many people assembled. 28 And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.” 29 That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. And so I ask for what reason you have sent for me.” 30 And Cornelius said, “Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, 31 and he said Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.
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5. Application Based on your examination of these four accounts 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


Acts 10:32-48 32 “Send therefore to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon the tanner by the sea. 33 And so I sent to you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.” 34 And opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. 36 The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)— 37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. 38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him. 39 And we are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And they also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. 40 God raised Him up on the third day, and granted that He should become visible, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. 43 Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. 45 And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47 “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did can he? 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

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