

Bible Way Church

OF ATLANTA ROAD

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

"Just Send a Word"

Matthew 8: 5 – 10; 13(NKJV)

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- It has been said that we live in a society of a multitude of words.
- The spoken as well as the written word are essential components, not just of this society but of all societies.
- A former college professor, Dr. Marianna Davis, once said, "If one can master the spoken and the written word then he or she will always be successful".
- Words do matter. The ability to understand and use them will impact your life.
- There are many people who have been helped and hurt by what was considered to be simple words.
- There is a wonderful Chinese proverb that says,
"A bad word whispered will echo a hundred miles".
- King Solomon writes in Proverbs 15: 1(KJV),
"A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger".
- Genesis 24:52 illustrates for us the power of the spoken word,
"And it came to pass, that when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the Lord, bowing himself to the earth".
- We see from these references that words are powerful. Words do matter in shaping our destiny; for the words we hear can either transform or destroy our lives.
- In our scriptural text, we have a wonderful example of the transformational power of the words of our Lord.
- Our text involves a Roman military officer who approaches Jesus in Capernaum seeking help for his paralyzed servant.

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- It is important to note that earlier in this same text, Jesus healed a man with leprosy by doing the unthinkable - touching him.
- Jesus was willing to do the same for the centurion. He was willing to go to his house and touch his paralyzed servant.
- However, this centurion's response is profound and noteworthy.
- He tells Jesus that He does not have to come to his house, "But only speak a word".
- He was saying to Jesus, just send a word.
- This Roman officer told Jesus that as a man of authority having soldiers under him, he recognized the power of words.
- When Jesus heard what this "so called" heathen had to say, he was astonished, or according to verse 10, "He marveled."
- He told his followers that He had not found such great faith, not even in Israel.
- In verse 13, we witness what happened as a result of this man's faith in the words of Jesus.
- According to the NIV translation, Jesus said,
"Go. It will be done just as you believed it would".
- He does not go to this man's house to heal his servant; He simply sends a word - a word of deliverance, a word of transformation, and a word of healing.
- Here is the good news; just like Jesus spoke a word of deliverance, a word of transformation, and a word of healing into this centurion's life, He can also speak a word into your life.
- The next time you are in a crisis, just ask Him to send a word.
- David wrote in Psalm 107:20 (NKJV),
"He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions".