

Word For The Week

14 August 2020

Preaching Dates

Sunday 16 August 2020

Bill Haining leading service (am) at Bridge of Don Baptist Church

Stephen Ilett (am) via Zoom at Dingwall Baptist Church

Cheryl Leckie (am) pre-recorded at Ayr Baptist Church

Monday 17 August 2020

Elizabeth de Silva (pm) speaking at Aglow International Zoom outreach meeting for East Anglia.

Monday 17 – Friday 21 August 2020

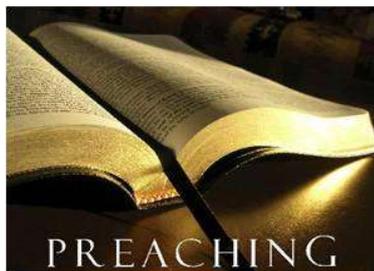
Glen Cartwright (am) *Teaching Truth* (Monday-Friday) pre-recorded and sent out each day via YouTube.

Thursday 20 August 2020

Charles Sommerville (pm) in Thursday Evening Bible Study on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87115608391>

Friday 21 August 2020

Elizabeth de Silva (pm) at Aglow Scotland Area, evening zoom meeting



“Recognising Authority”

By James Ewen

Luke 7 v 9 *‘I tell you not even in Israel have I found such faith’.*

The **Roman Centurion** in this story is described as **‘a good man’** well respected by the Jewish leaders in that community. He had at first sent for **Jesus** to come and heal his servant (one whom clearly he had come to value and to care for) presumably because he had heard the stories about **Jesus** from the Jewish leaders. **Demons** cast out, and **sick people** miraculously cured

He **recognised** that if these stories were true then **Jesus** must have had real authority in spiritual matters, for he himself had lived under military authority and its lawful constraints for years. He had given orders and received them, regulating his own conduct and that of his men. So that together they might serve a greater purpose.

The **Centurion** then takes everyone by surprise when he sends a message to **Jesus** telling him not to trouble himself by coming to his house as he says, ‘He is not worthy to receive him,’ He asks him but to **‘Say the word and my servant will be healed’.**

The **Centurion** understood that true authority can be exercised with **‘but a word’**. A **proclamation** ‘even at a distance’ from a **lawful authority** has the same power as one made up close. This after all, is exactly how he and his superiors would have received their strategic commands from **Rome** for years.

What is remarkable is that the **Centurion** ‘a gentile’ put his trust in **Jesus** at time when so many of **Jesus’** own people had refused to acknowledge Him as **Lord**. Despite the overwhelming evidence of the signs following his preaching.

The **Centurion’s** request that **Jesus** not bother coming to his house and simply declare his servant healed seems to **surprise** and even **delight Jesus**. He declares that he has never found **such faith** even among his own people. The **Centurion’s** confidence in **Jesus** is not misplaced as his servant is made well again at once.

Do we truly recognise the authority and the power of the **God** we pray to. Dare we too take our **faith** ‘out for a walk’ and ask our Saviour to **‘say the word’** over our concerns for Our families, Our health, Our churches, Our Nation, and Our troubled World.