

The Centurion | Selections from the Gospels

The Passion of the Christ

Pastor Woody Woodward continued our *Passion of the Christ* series with a dramatic first-person retelling of the crucifixion through the eyes of the Roman centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution. This powerful narrative highlighted the humanity, dignity, and divine authority of Christ in His final moments and offered a fresh perspective on what it means to behold Jesus as the Son of God.

Summary

As the centurion recounts the events of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion, we see the Gospel unfold not just as history but as a deeply personal encounter. From the garden arrest to the empty tomb, the centurion testifies to Jesus' majesty, silence in suffering, and compassion even toward His executioners. He witnesses the power of Christ's death, the supernatural darkness, the trembling earth, and, ultimately, the resurrection.

Moved by what he saw, the centurion confesses, "Truly, this was the Son of God." A man once hardened by war and cruelty is undone by Jesus' love and power. Through his eyes, we are reminded that no one is beyond the reach of grace—and that the right response to Jesus is faith, worship, and surrender.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus endured the cross with divine authority, not victimhood—He gave His life willingly.
- The centurion's transformation shows that even the hardest hearts can be changed by the love of Christ.
- The crucifixion fulfilled the imagery of the Passover Lamb—silent, innocent, and sacrificed.
- Jesus' final words, "It is finished," declare that the debt of sin has been fully paid.
- The resurrection confirms that Jesus was not just a righteous man—but the risen Son of God.
- Faith begins with recognizing who Jesus truly is and responding in humility and worship.

Discussing and Applying the Sermon

- What stood out to you most from hearing the crucifixion from the centurion's point of view?
 - How does seeing Jesus through the eyes of someone who once opposed Him affect your understanding of grace?
 - Why is the centurion's declaration—"Truly, this was the Son of God"—so significant?
 - In what ways do you see yourself in the centurion? Are there areas in your life where you need to surrender control to Jesus?
 - Have you responded personally to who Jesus is? What's keeping you from saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God"?
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About *The Passion of the Christ*

This series explores the final hours of Jesus' life leading up to the resurrection. Each message focuses on a different moment in the Passion narrative, revealing the depth of Christ's love, the gravity of our sin, and the invitation to follow Him as Savior and King.