

Remote Control!

1 Kings 8^{22-23,41-43}; Psalm 96¹⁻⁹; Galatians 1¹⁻¹²; Luke 7¹⁻¹⁰

I tell you that not even in Israel have I found such faith. [Luke 7⁹]

One of the things that makes me (and a few others I don't doubt) feel old is that I remember when you had to get out of your seat and walk to the television to change the channel! (Then came the development when the remote control was at the end of a wire that was plugged into the television and you could flick through the 4 channels that were available). Now we have progressed to remote control and - if you haven't lost the box - you can switch the television on or off and flick through 100's of options (only to find nothing you want to watch)!

Did you notice in the Gospel reading that everything is done by remote control?

- ✦ The centurion with the sick - and highly valued slave - sent some Jewish Elders to Jesus (an interesting collaboration between those who should have been enemies). Yet, they must have respected him for they say of him **He is worthy of having you do this for him - it was he who built our Synagogue for us!**
- ✦ The theme of keeping at a distance continues as Jesus was on his way - **Lord do not trouble yourself for I am not worthy to have you under my roof.** That was why he did not **presume** to come to Jesus himself.
- ✦ BUT the lesson on faith continues - the Centurion hadn't given up! **Only speak the word and let my servant be healed.** The rationale came from the soldiers' work: he gave orders and they were obeyed: Jesus need only give orders and they are obeyed.
- ✦ Two things happen:
 - When they returned to the house **they found the slave in good health**, and
 - Jesus was **amazed** at him and goes on to give him a glowing reference: **I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.**

We are a community of faith - and we celebrate that faith in Baptism: we ask God to be part of Maryah's life now and for him to hold her life into the future.

The opposite of faith isn't doubt, but certainty! Faith then allows for all the questions and all the uncertainties and places them in God's hands trusting him to do what is best.

It isn't about distance or even faith - it is about Jesus. We can trust him with ourselves and our children.

It isn't about being controlled by God remotely - it is about the faith that he does the right and best thing in us and for us.