

## **OCTOBER REFLECTION 2019**

### ***Jesus Heals an Official's Son at Capernaum in Galilee***

**Invocation** *(Make the sign of the cross as the leader prays the invocation.)*

Leader: + Lord, open my lips.

**All:** ***And my mouth shall declare your praise.***

**Psalm 103** *(Pray antiphonally.)*

***Bless the LORD, my soul;***

***all my being, bless his holy name!***

***Bless the LORD, my soul;***

***and do not forget all his gifts,***

***Merciful and gracious is the LORD,***

***slow to anger, abounding in mercy.***

***He will not always accuse,***

***and nurses no lasting anger;***

***He has not dealt with us as our sins merit,***

***nor requited us as our wrongs deserve.***

***For as the heavens tower over the earth,***

***so his mercy towers over those who fear him.***

***As far as the east is from the west,***

***so far has he removed our sins from us.***

***The LORD has set his throne in heaven;***

***his dominion extends over all.***

***Bless the LORD, all his creatures,***

***everywhere in his domain.***

***Bless the LORD, my soul!***

**Scripture**

*Then he returned to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. Now there was a royal official whose son was ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was near death. Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "You may go; your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and left. While he was on his way back, his slaves met him and told him that his boy would live. He asked them when he began to recover. They told him, "The fever left him yesterday, about one in the afternoon." The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he and his whole household came to believe. Now this was the second sign Jesus did when he came to Galilee from Judea.*

*John 2:1-11*

*(Pause for a few moments to meditate on the reading before sharing the reflection.)*

**Reflection**

*The nobleman must have had a bud of faith, for his urgent need moved him to seek Christ. At least a glimmer of faith was necessary to believe that, if he could only convince Jesus the Healer to go to his dying child, his son would be healed. This first example of Jesus' healing miracles is important, as it emphasizes the link between miracles and faith. Those who desire to be healed or to have a loved one healed must exhibit faith.*

*Jesus' miracles of healing are instructive in that they give us kinds and actions of faith. By refusing to go with the nobleman, Jesus emphasizes and*

*illustrates the potency of strong faith. Another time, Jesus teaches that a miracle is not the cause of faith as much as its reward (Matthew 9:22). Belief in Christ as Healer leads people to faith in Him as Savior.*

*We all desire divine intervention when we are in dire need; "there are no atheists in a foxhole," it is said. Though the nobleman's human faith was limited and weak, it was still real. Jesus helped him to develop it, leading to deeper belief. However, no matter how strong our faith is, if it is in a wrong object, it will do nothing to relieve suffering, but if our faith is properly directed, despite being weak, it will bring deliverance and comfort. Note, however, that faith itself does not relieve affliction, but the power of the One in whom we believe does.*

Martin G. Collins  
*The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Nobleman's Son*

**Prayer**      ***God of miracles,***  
***Sometimes we are slow to believe in your power,***  
***even when your miracles occur all around us each and every day.***  
***Open our eyes to see and our hearts to believe.***  
***Amen***

***Sign of the Cross***



