**The Faith with Deep Trust and Deep Humbleness**

**Matthew 8:5–13**

**There was a fox that tried hard to get into a vineyard. But the fence was so dense that it was impossible to get in. So the fox fasted for three days to lose weight, and then managed to get through the fence. The fox entered the vineyard and ate to its fullest. Then he tried to get out again, but he was so fat that he couldn't get out of the fence. Reluctantly, the fox starved for another three days, lost weight, and then was able to escape. He then said, “In the end, my belly became the same when I came in and when I came out!”**

**When I think about it, I think that a lot of people in the past and today still live a life like this fox. Sometimes I feel like I'm included among those people.**

**The life of Jesus was opposite to the life of the fox. And, today's Bible tells us a story of a centurion who resembles the image of goodness in Jesus. He wasn't even a Jew. He was a Roman and a centurion. His servant was sick and lying down. In fact, in Roman times, slaves were neither legally nor officially treated as human beings, so they could not be held legally accountable if their masters drove them out, beat them for work, or even killed their servants. The wretched beings who were not treated that much were the slaves of the Roman era. Would the master care if such a slave, a servant of such a household, was paralyzed? You don't have to worry about kicking them out, hitting them, or whether the servant dies or not. However, this man, this owner, this master, had a broken heart feeling sorry for his slave who was suffering from paralysis. That's why he went to Jesus to ask him for healing of his servant.**

**What I find out here first is not this centurion's love for his servant, but his good character, his humility, his humble heart which was in Jesus. A humble person doesn't live like the fox in the story.                                                                                                                                                    So we can confirm the centurion's humble heart and attitude once again in the words that follow. When Jesus said that he would go to his house and heal the sick servant, the centurion said: “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.”**

**Looking at this verse, I felt like he was like Solomon. After the King Solomon built the first Jerusalem temple in Israel's history, the largest and best temple in Israel's history, and the most splendid and magnificent temple, he says:** **“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!**

**The size and splendor of the temple building itself is nothing more than a speck of dust compared to the whole world and all things in the universe that God created and owns. However, seeing the humble heart and attitude of Solomon who came before God as he raised the temple to God, and the true faith he sought to humble himself and exalt God, God was pleased and satisfied with the temple. So, the Bible testifies that the glory of the Lord God was present at the dedication ceremony of the Jerusalem temple that Solomon offered. The glory of the Lord is just a general word for God, testifying that the glory of the Lord filled the temple and the priests could not enter it.**

**When I think about it, there are other external reasons, environmental reasons, and other reasons why I am not happy, my prayers are not answered, and I am hurt. But sometimes that's not the only cause. Sometimes I realize that my pride was the problem. Just as water flows to the low places, so the grace and wisdom of God flow to the lowly and humble.**

**Think of Peter, whom we know well. One day, Peter diligently lowered his net to catch fish, but he was still in vain without catching fish. Of course, he must have been angry, annoyed, and tired. What did Jesus say at that time? “Go out into the depths and let down your nets to catch fish.”**

**In fact, Jesus was a carpenter. Jesus never caught a fish by the sea. If such a carpenter instructs a fisherman whose job is to catch fish to go over there and lower the net and to go over there to catch fish, the fisherman would be quite offended and disrespected. Few fishermen can obey the carpenter. If it wasn't for Peter's humility of faith, he would have been very offended and proud of himself, and he would have grumbled about what Jesus  knew about catching fish.**

**But Peter obeyed. He speaks with that obedient heart. “We have toiled all night and have gained nothing, but at your word I will let down the nets.” When Peter let down his net where the Lord said it was, it was not simply that he lowered his net. It means that he lays down all his thoughts and opinions, reason and experience, abilities and abilities before the Lord. And we are demonstrating that we put obedience to the Lord's word first, in our words and deeds, and in the reality of our lives.**

**I hope that the blessings that came to Peter on your soul and field of life will come to you because of the humility that knows how to put my words, thoughts, blood, and claims before the word of God, and through obedience through that humility. I hope that all of us will emulate Jesus' image of the lowly person shown by the centurion shows in today's Word, the heart to serve others, the beautiful humility that creates all of that, the humility that saves lives and raises it, and the humility that creates love and compassion.**

**In Genesis 12, Abraham appears for the first time. The time when Abraham, the man of faith, the father of faith, experienced the most difficult time and choice in his life, was when he had to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, to God. It is found in Genesis 22. But Abraham starts in chapter 12. That is, from chapters 12 to 21, Abraham learns who God is while experiencing God's grace and guidance, and experiences what God is like. As he goes through the nine chapters from chapters 12 to 21, Abraham begins to trust deeply in the existence and work of God.**

**But at the same time, as he moves through those nine chapters, moments of doubt about God and doubt about his belief in God relentlessly overtake him. Abraham does not lose the bond of trust in God, and in order not to lose it, he fights a fierce spiritual battle. In that struggle, Abraham overcame his doubts, and sometimes he lost or collapsed in those doubts and temptations.**

**But the main thing is this. Through the times of doubt and the battle of faith, Abraham's trust in God grows stronger and stronger. His trust in God continues to build up one after another, and until chapter 22, he will be able to stand firmly as a man of faith who has a very heavy and honest trust. So, in chapter 22, Abraham was able to endure and obey the command to sacrifice his only son, Isaac.**

**However, when Abraham took his son Isaac to Mount Moriah, was Abraham's heart at ease or at peace? No. Most likely, Abraham was in deep turmoil and probably wished he could die instead of Isaac. In his heart, once again, there must have been a fierce spiritual battle, a conflict of heart, a battle of faith between trust and doubt in God.**

**We believe that our faith grows and matures as our trust in the Lord becomes stronger and stronger every time we go through the struggles of spiritual warfare and conflict of faith in our faith and the life of the saints. So it tells us that it is not just obedience that Peter went to the water and let down his nets as Jesus said. That obedience came from a high level of purity and deep trust that had been refined and refined over the years. It was an obedience that came from a deep trust in Jesus that came through the conflict and doubts in Peter's heart, a spiritual battle, and a high level of trust.**

**“So far, they have cast their nets all night long to catch fish, but no fish have been caught, Lord.” Peter says: But Jesus tells us to cast the net one more time. where are you? “Into the deep…” We have to trust not only in the shallow, but also in the deep, somewhere the eyes can’t see and you have no choice but place your full trust in Him. Sometimes our obedience is shallow obedience. He tells us, “Go into the deep and let down your nets.” You may want a deep obedience to us.**

**We say that we trust in the Lord, but sometimes we think that our trust was not shallow, or sometimes we think it is, me included.**

**All of us, the church and the world, are serving together, loyal, and working hard. And what the Lord, who knows that, wants and is telling us, is to constantly hear a voice telling us not to stay there anymore, but to cast our nets into a deeper place of trust, a wider and higher place of devotion. I believe you are listening to us. And this morning, the Bible is telling the centurion the voice of Jesus that he heard to Peter. "good. Let it be as you have believed.” what do you mean? “As much as you trust me, you can ask for. ”**

**In your life today, in this morning's prayer, I hope that this morning will be heard by all of us, the voice of the Lord's life, healing, restoration, and power that invites us to go deeper.**

**So, not the shallow faith like a fox, but the centurion's deep faith to hear Jesus' praise saying, "I have not seen such great faith in Israel, nor have I found such trust in Israel." I want all of us to be able to put our faith in God.**

**In the name of Jesus, I earnestly pray that we will all live faith that is full of humility before the Lord, and that we will all serve each other in faith that works with deep trust in the Lord and deep obedience to the Lord for our fruitful life and the souls saving life as Jesus’ disciples who are making disciples and transforming the world. Amen.**