



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### “SPECIAL GUESTS”

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Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes from the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). A most profound example of faith is the healing of the centurion’s servant (Matthew 8:5-13). The centurion understood the power of the Word of God to overcome sickness and disease. Jesus, did not waste time and took every opportunity to teach, to preach and to show how God works to bring a person to faith. Hence, He is one of our special guests.

#### **1. The healing of a paralytic (Mark 2:1-5)**

When Jesus went to Capernaum, a paralytic with four men could not get in, so they opened up the roof above Him and let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. Jesus was astounded at their faith, forgave the sins of the paralytic and healed him. The crowd were all amazed and began to glorify God.

#### **2. The cure of Peter’s mother-in-law (Mt. 8: 14-15)**

Jesus entered the house of Peter and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with fever. Jesus touched her hand and the fever left her.

#### **3. Zacchaeus, the tax collector (Luke 19:1-10)**

When Jesus requested Zacchaeus to dine at his (Zacchaeus) house with the other tax collectors and publicans, some reacted and gossiped. However, Jesus insisted that the Son of man came to seek and save the lost.

#### **4. The road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32)**

The two disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus who approached them. They apparently lost faith and hope after Jesus’ death on the cross. However, they later recognized Him in the blessing and breaking of the bread which resulted in the redemption of their faith. These disciples decided to return to the Church in Jerusalem.

#### **5. The Wedding in Cana (John 2:1-12)**

Jesus, Mary and some disciples were guests at a wedding in Cana. He performed His first miracle by changing the water into wine when the wine was already gone.

#### **6. The pardon of the sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50)**

Jesus was a special guest at the home of Simon, the Pharisee. A sinful woman came to Jesus, washed His feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, kissed them and poured a very expensive alabaster oil on them. He used the actions of the woman to explain to Simon how a special guest should be treated. The woman gave Jesus her full attention, her deep affection and her adoration. Her actions paid for her sins.

#### **7. Martha and Mary (Luke 10:42-48)**

Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him. Burdened with much preparation and serving, she asked Jesus to tell her sister Mary to help her. Jesus told her in reply that Mary had chosen the better part and it would not be taken from her. Mary sat beside Jesus at His feet listening to Him speak.

#### **Conclusion**

When we listen to the Word of God, we hear Jesus speaking to us. Our minds and hearts are enriched with wisdom. The more wisdom we gain, the greater our knowledge of God and the greater our faith. The Word of God has the power to ignite our hearts and fill them with love and trust in Him. If we truly listen and open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, we will receive the blessings of great faith.

#### **Reflection:**

1. How do you treat Jesus as a guest?
2. Are you more like the Pharisee or more like the sinful woman?

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