

1. Review question: Jesus encountered at least four distinct “worlds” of people during his three years on earth. This week we are discussing the world of Roman authorities and how Jesus related to them. After reading the verses below, list the three other “worlds” we’ve discussed, and briefly explain how Jesus was or was not *in* those worlds.
 1. Lk. 14:1-14; Jn. 3:1-10.
 2. Lk. 5:27-32; 15:1-2.
 3. Jn. 4:4-8, 28-30, 39-43.
2. When Jesus was on earth, how did Jews generally view the world of Roman authorities? See Mt. 2:16-18, 14:3-10; Jn.11:43-48. What facts in Mt. 8:5-13 indicate the status of a centurion in the Roman world?
3. The incident described in Mt. 8:5-13 is a great lesson on *faith*. But look at it from the standpoint of whether Jesus was *in* but not *of* the world of Roman authorities. What did Jesus do or say to enable him, as a non-Roman, to be *in* the Roman world? What *could he have done or said*, as a Jew, that would have kept him out of that world?
4. Just as Jesus was not *of* the world of Roman authorities, there are many “worlds” that we cannot, and sometimes should not, submerge ourselves in (i.e., not be *of* these worlds). What lessons can we learn about being *in* a totally different world from Jesus’ encounter with the centurion in Mt. 8:5-13?
5. Read Jn. 18:28-29. What barrier described in these verses had Jewish tradition (not Scripture) erected that limited their ability to be *in* the world of Romans? Did Jesus consider himself to be bound by this tradition? See Jn. 18:33, 19:8-9; Mt. 8:7; Lk. 7:6-7.
6. Do we Christians today have ceremonies or traditions that tend to exclude outsiders and make it difficult for us to enter their “worlds”? If so, give an example or two.