

Centurion Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

What was the initial reaction of the Centurion to the whole Jesus incident?

Is Jerusalem of that day anything like Jerusalem today?

What characteristics of Pilot were admirable to the Centurion?

How did Pilot's uncharacteristic behavior make an impression?

How did the crowd's demand to release Barabbas strike the soldier as strange?

Can life-changing situations surprise us in the middle of a routine day?

How would a Roman soldier become calloused to human suffering?

What things caused him to pay attention to this situation with Jesus?

How would soldiers have become able to engage in mindless cruelty?

How did Jesus reaction to being tortured by the soldiers surprise the Centurion?

Jesus response to physical and psychological torture on the cross was, "Father forgive them." How would this especially impress a Roman soldier?

Might he have heard Jesus promise the repentant thief that he would be with Jesus in paradise? If so, what might he have thought?

Would soldiers be experts at predicting the time of death from crucifixion?

Would the sudden darkness have been known and predicted by the Romans if it were an eclipse?

Would the earthquake and the opening of tombs with dead people coming to life have made a big impression on a Roman?

He would have been unlikely to have seen any of Jesus miracles, but might he have heard about them?

Of all the things that happened, what changed the Centurion's mind in the end?

Christians were later accused by Romans of being atheists for not worshipping Roman gods. Are there any parallels with the reactions to Christians by modern society?