



Worship Illustration: Storybook
The Bonzai Brothers
God of Wonders Part 1: Miracles of Jesus
Unit 2, Lesson 6

Healing the Centurion's Servant

Matthew 8:5-10, 13

Chauncey patted the side of his brother's bright red plane and walked out the big bay doors of the Bonzai Brothers Flight School hangar. He had just returned from a quick trip to China to pick up a few special items for his mother's visit. The thought of his mother coming made him shake with excitement. He had just landed, but within the hour he felt like flying again!

Chauncey looked at his watch. His wonderful Mumsy should be arriving any minute. He looked toward the sky but did not see any sign of Mumsy's little two-seater, hot pink bi-plane. Chauncey closed the heavy hangar doors with a big shove and walked toward the pineapple plants growing at the edge of the landing strip clearing. Just as he was leaning down to dig up a ripe, juicy pineapple, he heard the low rumble of a plane engine. Mumsy was coming in for a landing! Chauncey snatched his two-way radio out of his pocket and shouted to Algernon that Mumsy was about to land.

Chauncey looked up just as Mumsy's plane bounced onto the end of the runway. The tires screeched and smoked as Mumsy slammed on the brakes. The little plane wobbled crazily to a lopsided stop just past the other end of the runway. Mumsy threw off her helmet and jumped to the ground.

"Jolly good! I made it! A perfect landing!" Mumsy cheered as she brushed the dust from her flight jacket.

Chauncey ran to his mother. "Mumsy! Mumsy! Are you, alright?"

Mumsy laughed and grabbed her son for a big hug. "Well, of course, I'm alright! Why wouldn't I be! In fifty years of flying, I have always had perfect landings. Oh, my little Boo Boo Kitty! It's so good to see you! Let me look at you. You've gotten so big!"

"Mumsy, I'm a grown-up!" Chauncey protested.

"Well, you'll always be my little Boo Boo Kitty!" Mumsy cooed. "Oh, and where is my little, Monkey Toes?"

Algernon ran up the path from the beach and yelled, "I heard that Mumsy! Why do you have to call me that? You know I don't like it!"

Mumsy turned to face Algernon who had stopped a few feet behind her. "Algernon Bonzai, are you raising your voice to me?" She stood, hands on her hips, waiting for an answer.

"No, I wasn't. I was simply being emphatic." Algernon replied meekly.

"Do you know what happens when little children raise their voices to their Mumsy?" Mumsy continued.

"No, Mumsy, I wasn't...!" Algernon tried to defend himself.

"Drop and give me five! Now!" Mumsy barked in her best commander voice. Mumsy was a tiny woman with her gray hair in a neat bun on the back of her head. She was very tough. She had been an Air Force commander of the women's air brigade for twenty years and did not accept disobedience or back-talk from anyone.

"Yes, Mumsy!" Algernon dropped to the ground and quickly did five pushups.

Mumsy reached for her son to help him up. "Now give your Mumsy a big hug!"

Mumsy and Algernon hugged, then Mumsy said, "And now it is Bible time."

Chauncey shook his head. "No, Mumsy...we love Bible time, but right now, we must..."

Mumsy's hands went back to her hips as she turned to Chauncey. "Are you being disobedient?"

"No, it's just that..." Chauncey began.

"Would you like to do five pushups like your brother?" Mumsy threatened.

Chauncey looked down at ground and kicked the dirt. "No ma'am."

"Then SIT! Good boys. Now then, I shall take out the Bible ri-ight now!" Chauncey and Algernon plopped down on the ground and leaned against a tree. Mumsy reached into her bag, pulled out her Bible and thumbed through the pages. "Ah, here it is. Now, in this story, Jesus and His disciples were in the city of Capernaum when they met a centurion who had a servant who was very, very sick."

Chauncey raised his hand. "Mumsy, what is a centurion?"

"Good question, Boo Boo Kitty," She praised. "A centurion was a Roman officer in charge of 100 soldiers. Now I want someone to read what the centurion said to Jesus. Chauncey?"

Chauncey protested. "Mumsy, stop treating me like I'm a little boy!"

Mumsy's hands went back to her hips. "READ!" She barked as if ordering 100 soldiers to drop and do fifty push-ups.

"Yes ma'am!" Chauncey obeyed immediately and began reading. "The centurion replied, 'Lord, I do not deserve to have You come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.'"

Algernon raised his hand. "Mumsy, I do have a question. Why did the centurion tell Jesus not to come to his house?"

"Excellent question, Monkey Toes." Mumsie said, "You see, when the centurion wanted his soldiers to do something, all he had to do was give an order and it was done!"

"Sort of like you," Algernon replied.

"I suppose so. When I was commanding the women's air brigade, I had authority!" Mumsy said proudly. "Do you know what authority means, Boo Boo Kitty?"

Chauncey frowned. "Of course I do Mumsy. I am a grown-up."

"Of course you are, dear." She agreed, "Why don't you share with us what the word authority means."

"Mumsy, this is silly! We are adults. We know what authority means!"

"Say it anyway!" Mumsy ordered.

"Authority means in charge," Chauncey quickly replied.

Mumsy patted him on the shoulder. "Good boy! As their authority, all I had to do was speak the word and my ladies snapped to attention and obeyed my commands."

Algernon had been thinking about the Bible story and something didn't make sense. "But Jesus wasn't in the army. How did He get His authority?"

"That is true," Mumsy agreed. "But Jesus had the authority of God and God is more powerful than any man's army! Read what happened next."

Chauncey picked the Bible up and continued reading. "Then Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.' And his servant was healed at that very hour." He looked up. "Wowsers, Mumsy! Jesus healed the man simply with His words!"

Mumsy nodded. "That's because Jesus is the God of Wonders! Jesus has God's authority, so He performs impossible, incredible miracles!"

"Miracles! Do you know what we like to say, Mumsy?" Chauncey asked.

"What's that, Boo Boo Kitty?" Mumsy asked.

Chauncey and Algernon replied together, "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!"

Mumsy clapped her hands. "Oh, I do like that! Good show!" Mumsy turned to her plane and said, "Well, dear boys, why don't you show me to the guest bedroom and then you can unpack my things! Then later you can unload all of the wonderful supplies I brought for you to distribute!"

Chauncey and Algernon stood up and began to walk towards Mumsy's plane to get her luggage. "Yes ma'am!" Algernon replied.

"We are so happy you are here, Mumsy." Chauncey called back over his shoulder. Both sons were excited about spending the next several weeks with their beloved Mumsy.