Critics and skeptics of the Bible have alleged many contradictions. One of their less common claims is that the gospels have a contradiction about the centurion's words at Jesus' death.

Alleged contradiction:

What did the centurion say when Jesus dies?
(a) "Certainly this man was innocent" (Luke 23:47)
(b) "Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mark 15:39)

The centurion made both statements. Gospel writers Matthew and Mark record one statement, and gospel writer Luke records another confession by the centurion. This is why we have four gospels. The alleged contradiction narrow-mindedly assumes the centurion could not have made both statements.

The centurion may have been present at Jesus' trial before Roman Governor Pontius Pilate,

and heard the charge against Jesus: **"The Jewish leaders insisted, 'We have a law and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God"** (**John 19:7** NIV).

Matthew reports more information about what the centurion would have heard during his time overseeing Jesus' execution: **"Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads, and saying . . . 'Come down off the cross, if you are the Son of God'"** (**Matthew 27:39,40** NIV).

Matthew also supplies additional details of what was said immediately after Jesus' death.**"When the centurion and those with him who were guarding the Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God'"** (**Matthew 27:54** NIV). Not only the centurion, but also the soldiers guarding the execution of Jesus, exclaimed, based on all that they had seen and heard that day, that Jesus was the Son of God.

Bible critics are often so over-eager to point out alleged flaws and contradictions in the Bible that they do not think through the entire situation, the context, and the background information very thoroughly.

How foolish it is to criticize God's word! **"You, O YHWH, laugh at them"** (**Psalm 59:8** LSV).

There is no contradiction about the centurion's words at Jesus' death.