

Luke 7 pt 1 vs. 01-10

Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. ² And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. ³ So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, ⁵ "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

⁶ Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

⁹ When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" ¹⁰ And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick

1. In our last study, we looked at: Salvation & foundation
 - a. **Building on the sand and building on the rock**
2. **Building on Ch. 6, Chapter 7 is a series of 4 stories**
 - a. The Centurion
 - b. The widow of Nain
 - c. John the Baptist
 - d. The sinful woman
3. 4 diff people with diff needs,
4. Jesus is now showing us not just great teaching, but a heart of compassion
5. There is a link between these 4 stories and the 4 "beatitudes" of Ch. 6
 - a. In these 4 examples, we'll see how:
 1. The poor in spirit are blessed – The Centurion

2. Those who are hungry now are blessed – the Widow
3. Those who weep now shall rejoice – John the Baptist
4. You are blessed when you are hated and excluded – Sinful woman

I. Warrior

II. Word

I. Warrior

1. After Jesus finished His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum (Village of Nahum)
2. A certain centurion had a servant who was sick
 - a. A centurion is a military leader who has 80-100 soldiers under him
3. 4 times centurions are mentioned and always in a good light
 - a. One centurion at the Cross: “Truly this was the son of God” (Matthew 27:54)
 - b. Cornelius was a devout man who prayed, fasted... (Acts 10)
 - c. Julius helped Paul and showed him favor (Acts 27)
 - d. This centurion recorded in Matthew 8 and Luke 7
4. There was lots of interaction between the roman soldiers and the Jewish people.
 - a. It was favorable for Rome to have religion. It kept the peace
5. So centurions were very familiar with the Jewish culture
6. He’s a Gentile who clearly loves the Jewish people
 - a. He’s a wealthy & generous man who built a synagogue

1. Paid up to 17 times more than a legionary soldier
7. He has a slave who is about to die and he cares for that slave
 - a. The normal thing to do was simply let him die
 - b. It is unusual for a master to be so kind toward a slave.
8. When his servant was sick, the centurion asked the elders of the Jews to beg Jesus to heal him.
 - a. This was a unique position for the elders of the Jews to be in.
 1. They did not believe in Jesus, but their friendship with the centurion forced them
9. They said that the centurion was worthy
 - a. That is religions view / People's normal view of how things work with God
 1. Religion says, here is what a good deserving person looks like,
 2. Humble, loving, generous & giving...
 - b. As if people have it within them to be good on their own
 1. "Those who are good have an audience with God"
 - c. Religion believes that the better you are, the more you behave, the more God is likely to answer your prayers
 - d. The truth is none of us will ever be good enough to earn anything with God
 - e. All the good we receive is by His Grace
10. Today in the church, we can easily fall into that same trap

- a. If I behave myself, I'll have God's attention
- b. If I do well, God will owe me in answering my prayer
- c. If I pray, serve, give... God will owe me.
- d. **Nothing could be further from the truth**
- e. **God will never owe anyone anything**
- f. **God's goodness on us is because of His Grace**

11. **Vs. 6** Jesus went with them

- a. He would have healed the servant simply at his request
- b. We've seen Jesus heal all kinds of people
 - 1. I.E. the man who didn't really believe & neither did the disciples

II. Word

- 1. Speak a word and my servant will be healed
- 2. What is remarkable in this story is that this man had an understanding greater than most Jews in Israel
 - a. As he considered the matter, he said, wait, go tell Jesus, I'm not worthy for you to enter my home... Just say the Word...
 - b. Just speak a word and my servant will be healed
- 3. Jesus marveled
 - a. How is it that a gentile understands more than the people of Israel?

4. His eyes were opened to the fact that Jesus has authority
 - a. That when a Word is given, it must be obeyed
5. What is astounding is that this man had humility, love, faith
 - a. His humility said, I'm not worthy for you to enter my home...
 1. He has the correct view of a relationship with God
 2. God doesn't owe us anything
 3. He's poor in spirit
 - b. His love for his servant caused him to search for Jesus
 1. Most slave owners simply will buy another slave
 2. They're tools to be replaced, not people to be loved
 - c. His faith in Jesus led him to say, just speak a word...
6. **He understood something**
 - a. I speak in Caesar's name, You speak in God's name
 - b. When I speak in Caesar's name, fear is the motivation
 - c. When Jesus speaks, He doesn't use fear, His Words are powerful & creative
7. Considering the life of Jesus, every word that He spoke has authority
 - a. Every blind person He dealt with is able to see
 - b. Every leper who prayed for a healing was completely cleansed
 - c. Every lame person the Master encountered is able to walk
 - d. Every demonized person Jesus met with is delivered
 1. Jesus is clearly walking in the authority of God and His Word is powerful

8. Speak a word and my servant will be healed

9. Where would such a man get this information and level of faith?

a. **We presume**

1. God is always at work and doesn't discriminate between Jew / gentile
2. Copies of the O.T writings were readily available in the common language

3. Grace must have touched his life

b. Where else would someone find faith, hope and love?

c. It can only be found in the Word of God that brings light into darkness

d. Perhaps it was the following verses that he considered

10. **Psalm 138:2** I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything

11. **Psalm 33:9** For He spoke, and it was *done*; He commanded, and it stood fast

12. **Psalm 107:20** He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions

13. **How God dealt with the nation of Israel in the wilderness**

14. God spoke promises to people and they all came to pass

a. When He spoke to Abraham, He gave him a son

b. When God spoke to Joseph in dreams, God brought it to pass

c. When God spoke to David about being king, God made it happen

d. When God told Israel to repent or judgment is coming, it happened

e. When God was ready to restore Israel, He brought them back home

1. God's Word is powerful

2. Jesus is walking in that power

1. "Your word Lord is enough for me"

15. I appreciate that in taking in God's word, he didn't use it to name and claim better things for himself

a. In looking at his helpless servant, he pleaded for the life of another

b. How do we know when the grace of God touches our hearts?

1. When we look away from ourselves and plead for others

c. But what about my needs?

d. My God shall supply all of your needs according to his riches in glory

16. I think what will bring the glory of God among us is not to look to ourselves but to begin to cry out to Jesus: Speak a Word and my ... will be healed

a. My Son / Daughter

b. My relatives

c. My neighbors

d. My community

17. Just speak a Word...

18. That's all it will take

a. Talitha Cumi

b. Lazarus, come forth