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Luke 7: Beyond Belief

Introductory Statement: Consistent with his overall presentation of Jesus, the Christ, as Savior of both Jews and Gentiles in this gospel record, Luke continues to show that God is not distant, but close. The eternal God came, in Jesus, to be near and accessible to us. Accordingly, the central verse of this message of good news (i.e. the Gospel), as written by Luke, can be found in Luke 19:10...the Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost". In this chapter we observe Jesus as He continues to move incredibly toward a primary purpose of making God accessible to men.

Summary Points:

- What is significant about Luke's authorship of one of the Gospel records of Jesus?
- What is the difference between a Jew and Gentile?
- Jesus declared that He hadn't seen great faith as was displayed by the Centurion. What does real faith look like?
- What things were being said about Jesus among the people?
- What is the process of faith?
- Does God only move when faith is perceived?

Objectives: As a result of our time of study today each Believer in JESUS will better grasp the intention of this chapter and understand ways to personally apply these truths in daily living.

THE WARMUP (Review)

Luke

3. Luke is a physician by profession



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4. Luke is a Gentile – a person of non-Jewish descent
 - a. Jew – traditionally one whose biological mother is a descendent of Abraham through Sarah; descendants of the Israelite tribe Judah; one who acknowledges God’s existence and submits to His authority, to the extent of exhibiting a willingness to sacrifice his life to sanctify His name
 - b. Gentile – anyone who is not a Jew; outsider
5. Luke is a New Testament author
 - a. He wrote the Gospel according to Luke
 - b. He wrote the book of Acts of the Apostles
 - c. In total volume, he is considered to have written more than anyone in the New Testament (although the Apostle Paul authored more books)
 - d. Emphasized Jesus’ being the Son of Man.
6. Luke shares a Fundamental, Foundational Truth about Genuine Discipleship
 - a. Don’t refer to Him as Lord if you’re going to walk in disobedience
Luke 6:46-48 (NLT)
 - b. Lordship denotes ownership; supreme power or rule. The dominion of one who has power, authority, or influence.
 - c. It is on this backdrop that we move into chapter 7.

THE WORKOUT

HEALING BY PROXY

1. The Roman Officer
 - a. A Centurion...an officer with command/leadership responsibility of 100 men.
Characteristics of some centurions mentioned in the Bible:



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- i. Cornelius – Acts 10:1-8 (NIV):
 - (a) Devout
 - (b) God-fearing
 - (c) Generous giver to those in need
 - (d) Man who prayed regularly
 - (e) Actions were remembered by God
 - (1) Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)
- ii. Julius – Acts 27:1,3, 11, 42-44, 28:16 (NIV)
- iii. Centurion at Golgotha during Jesus' death – Mark 15: 37-38 (NIV)
- iv. Centurion at Capernaum – Luke 7:2-10
 - (a) Humble
 - (b) Well-deserving in the eyes of Jewish leaders
 - (c) Loves the Jewish nation
 - (d) Assisted with building the synagogue
 - (e) Unworthy/Undeserving in his own eyes
 - (f) Person of Influence (others speak well of him)



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- (g) Compassionate
- (h) Man of, and who understood, authority, power, and exhibited faith
- b. He was in a desperate situation.
 - i. His servant was sick unto death.
 - ii. He was helpless to do anything about his servant's condition
- c. He heard about Jesus
 - i. What had he heard about Jesus? What was being said? Luke 7:21 (NIV)
 - ii. This was personally declared by Jesus Luke 4:16-19, 21
- d. He sent elders to Jesus
- e. He sent friends to Jesus
- f. The centurion wasn't trying to "have faith"; He wanted to get to Jesus in order for his servant to be healed
- g. The officer acted upon what He heard and believed
 - i. Faith Without Corresponding Action is Dead, being alone...Empty belief
 - ii. We are not really in receipt of a Word from God until our Thoughts, Words, and Actions Align with what has been Declared
- h. Jesus saw the integrity of this man and considered it Great Faith, none that He had seen in Israel.
- i. Personal Application
 - i. The Centurion Possessed a Need, Heard about Jesus, Believed What He



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Heard, Took Corresponding Actions which aligned with what He Heard, and Believed, which positioned him to Receive

- ii. Romans 12:17 (NIV)
 - (a) It matters what you hear
 - (b) It matters what you do with/about what you hear

2. The Widow (Luke 7:11-17 NIV)

- a. Facts
 - i. Death of her only son.
 - ii. There is a funeral procession of a large crowd
 - iii. She was saddened and moved to tears
 - iv. Her tears spoke for her; expressions of her heart
Psalm 56:8
 - v. Jesus' response went beyond her Belief or Expectation – Compassion
- b. Personal Application – be open and honest before Him; He Knows

3. John the Baptist

Luke 7:18-30

- i. Cousin of Jesus
- ii. Around the same age
- iii. Forerunner of Jesus



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- iii. Needed reassurance of something that he'd known all of his life: Jesus' identity
 - iv. Jesus' validated John's ministry before the people and highlights the position in the kingdom of one who is Born Again / Born from above
4. Jesus, Simon, and The Sinful Woman
- Luke 7::44-47
- i. Simon, the host, invited Jesus but did not do the ordinary, common things for his guest
 - ii. The woman was a known sinner, but she heard about Jesus being at Simon's home
 - iii. Simon, the religious man, focused on her known works
 - iv. Jesus focused on her worship stemming from a heart filled with gratitude
 - v. Jesus forgives her sins as she worships Him
 - vi. Jesus saw her worship as Faith – She heard about Jesus, believed what she heard, and acted upon what she heard.



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The Cool Down

- What have you heard about Jesus? From whom did you hear it?
- What has been your response to what you've heard about Jesus?
- In this moment, what will be your corresponding action?
- Have you called upon the name of the Lord?
- Jesus, the Christ, says Come...
 - Repent
 - Receive HIS forgiveness
 - Accept HIS Gifts of the Holy Spirit and His Promises
 - Expect HIS Goodness in your life

