

## Text Outline

## Luke 7:1-17

## I. When

## A. Jesus

1. had finished saying all this to the people who were listening,
2. he entered Capernaum.

B. <sup>2</sup>There a centurion's servant,

1. whom his master valued highly,
2. was sick
3. and about to die.

C. <sup>3</sup>The centurion

1. heard of Jesus
2. and sent some elders of the Jews to him,
3. asking him to
  - a) *come*
  - b) *and heal his servant.*

D. <sup>4</sup>When they

1. came to Jesus,
2. they pleaded earnestly with him,
  - a) *"This man deserves to have you do this,*
  - b) *<sup>5</sup>because*
    - (1) he loves our nation
    - (2) and has built our synagogue."
3. <sup>6</sup>So Jesus went with them.

## II. He was not far from the house when

## A. the centurion sent friends to say to him:

1. "Lord, don't trouble yourself,
  - a) *for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.*
  - b) *<sup>7</sup>That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you.*
2. **But**
  - a) *say the word,*
  - b) *and my servant will be healed.*
3. <sup>8</sup>For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me.

- a) *I tell*
  - (1) this one,
    - (a) 'Go,'
    - (b) and he goes;
  - (2) and that one,
    - (a) 'Come,'
    - (b) and he comes.
- b) *I say to my servant,*
  - (1) 'Do this,'
  - (2) and he does it."

- B. <sup>9</sup>When Jesus heard this,
  - 1. he was amazed at him,
  - 2. and turning to the crowd following him,
  - 3. he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."
  - 4. <sup>10</sup>Then the men who had been sent
    - a) returned to the house
    - b) and found the servant well.

### III. <sup>11</sup>Soon afterward,

- A. Jesus
  - 1. went to a town called Nain,
  - 2. and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him.
- B. <sup>12</sup>As he approached the town gate,
  - 1. a dead person
    - a) was being carried out
      - (1) —the only son of his mother,
      - (2) and she was a widow.
    - b) And a large crowd from the town was with her.
  - 2. <sup>13</sup>When the Lord saw her,
    - a) his heart went out to her
    - b) and he said, "Don't cry."
    - c) <sup>14</sup>Then
      - (1) he
        - (a) went up
        - (b) and touched the bier they were carrying him on,
      - (2) and the bearers stood still.
      - (3) He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"
    - d) <sup>15</sup>The dead man
      - (1) sat up
      - (2) and began to talk,
    - e) and Jesus gave him back to his mother.
  - 3. <sup>16</sup>They

- a) *were all filled with awe*
- b) *and praised God.*

(1) "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said.

(2) "God has come to help his people."

**4. <sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout**

- a) *Judea*
- b) *and the surrounding country.*

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## Conceptual Outline

### I. Healing of the centurion's servant

- A. Jesus entered Capernaum after preaching Sermon on the Mount
- B. A highly valued servant of the centurion was sick & about to die
- C. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent elders of the Jesus to ask Jesus to come & heal the servant
- D. The elders pleaded with Jesus telling Him that the centurion was deserving because
  - 1. he loves their nation
  - 2. he built their synagogue

### II. Centurion's faith

- A. the centurion sent friends
  - 1. told Jesus that he did not deserve His visit
  - 2. but say the word & his servant will be healed
  - 3. explanation of his understanding of Jesus' authority
- B. Jesus was amazed, praised the centurion's faith, & healed the servant

### III. Resurrection of a widow's son

- A. Jesus went to Nain with His disciples & a large crowd
- B. He saw a funeral procession
  - 1. a widow's only son's corpse was being carried out & a large crowd was with her
  - 2. Jesus saw her

a) *his heart went out to her*

b) *He comforted her*

c) *The healing*

(1) he went up to the corpse & touched the bier

(2) the bearers stood still

(3) He told the dead man to get up

d) *The dead man sat up & talked*

e) *He gave him back to his mother*

**3. The people were filled with awe & praised God**

**4. This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea & the surrounding country**

**Questions:**

- 1. Read the entire passage. Divide the group into 3 & have them discuss the variation of the following question. If you were to ask (a family member, a friend, a famous person who does not know you) for a big favor. What would you do before you ask? How would you ask? What would make you feel deserving for the help?**
- 2. Read vs. 1-10 again. Jesus had just finished the sermon on the mount when he entered Capernaum. Does anyone recall anything about Capernaum? Whom was he greeted by? What was their request? In their logic what made the centurion deserving? Being that Jesus & several of his disciples were locals of Capernaum, did He need to be reminded of who built their synagogue? Why did they remind Jesus? What motivated these elders to help? What's wrong with this way of relating to God?**
- 3. How was the centurion described? How does he treat people, his possessions, his job, and God? In your opinion, is he deserving?**
- 4. How did Jesus handle the elders' request? By going was Jesus agreeing that this man was deserving?**
- 5. What happened when Jesus near the house? Why didn't the centurion feel deserving? What did he understand that the elders & the Jews didn't? How did Jesus respond to the centurion's request? If the centurion was not deserving, then why did Jesus heal the servant? By healing this way, what is Jesus proclaiming & demonstrating?**
- 6. If you were to exercise greater faith in you prayers, how might your requests be presented to God differently?**
- 7. Read vs. 11-17 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a little town called Nain which is about 20 miles from Capernaum. What did they encounter? How many people were present?**

- 8. What are some words that described Jesus' emotional reaction to the situation? Why did his heart go out to her? What in Jesus' life made him even more empathic about the widow's situation? What did he do with his feelings?**
  
- 9. Let's trace the steps Jesus took to help the widow. What can you conclude about grace in the situation? What can you conclude about Jesus' power & authority?**
  
- 10. Luke took great care in telling us about the witnesses in this incidence. Who were they? How did they respond? Why did Luke want us to know about the large crowd and their response? Why do you suppose a town with some many who witnesses such amazing miracles would be denounced by Jesus?**
  
- 11. What would be an appropriate response from us to Jesus after studying this passage? How can we take heed not to fall into the same condition the people of Capernaum became?**

## Questions & Potential Answers

**1. Read the entire passage. Divide the group into 3 & have them discuss the variation of the following question. If you were to ask (a family member, a friend, a famous person who does not know you) for a big favor. What would you do before you ask? How would you ask? What would make you feel deserving for the help?**

**2. Read vs. 1-10 again. Jesus had just finished the sermon on the mount when he entered Capernaum. Does anyone recall anything about Capernaum? Whom was he greeted by? What was their request? In their logic what made the centurion deserving? Being that Jesus & several of his disciples were locals of Capernaum, did He need to be reminded of who built their synagogue? Why did they remind Jesus? What motivated these elders to help? What's wrong with this way of relating to God?**

- Background information: Capernaum is a small fishing village where Jesus lived (Mt 4:13) It is also home to Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Matthew. It is also a village where many miracles occurred but in the end, Jesus denounced because of unbelief. *"And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day."* (Mt 11:23)
- He was greeted by some elders of the Jews who requested that he heal the centurion's servant.
- He was deserving because of his love for Israel & building of the synagogue.
- Jesus certainly would have known who built the synagogue. The reminder might be intended to induce obligation & need for reciprocation.
- They might be motivated to keep the good things from the centurion coming their way.
- Obligation, calculation, and reciprocation is not genuine love relationship. It keeps us locked & bind. God desire a love relationship with us. Besides, what can we ever do for God or give to God? What debt does He owe us that He would repay by granting our requests?

**3. How was the centurion described? How does he treat people, his possessions, his job, and God? In your opinion, is he deserving?**

- Centurion - Roman soldier with approximately 100 people under him. He's mid-rank in Roman government but maybe at Capernaum, he's pretty high up. He valued his

servant. He seems to have the respect of the people he governed and was a good soldier who does not abuse his job for money. Instead he built the synagogue for the people. He's friends with the Jews & the elders. He loves the nation and have a healthy enough respect for God that he would build the synagogue. In his search for God, he's also heard of Jesus.

- In all indication, he's deserving.

#### **4. How did Jesus handle the elders' request? By going was Jesus agreeing that this man was deserving?**

- Jesus went with them.
- His action may or may not indicate agreement but for sure, He did not contradict or rebuke them.

#### **5. What happened when Jesus near the house? Why didn't the centurion feel deserving? What did he understand that the elders & the Jews didn't? How did Jesus respond to the centurion's request? If the centurion was not deserving, then why did Jesus heal the servant? By healing this way, what is Jesus proclaiming & demonstrating?**

- The centurion sent friends to tell Jesus not to trouble Himself.
- He recognized that he could not use his "authority" to order Jesus. He recognized Jesus' authority & his need to humble himself to make a request not based on merit, performance, achievement, or good works.
- Authority of Jesus, possibly His Deity, humility, faith, and grace, not merit.
- He was amazed. Praised his faith. Granted his request & healed from a distance by words.
- Grace.
- He has authority. He's God. He has clearly demonstrated grace through faith. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast."* (Eph 2:8-9)

#### **6. If you were to exercise greater faith in your prayers, how might your requests be presented to God differently?**

#### **7. Read vs. 11-17 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a little town called Nain which is about 20 miles from Capernaum. What did they encounter? Who were present there?**

- A funeral procession
- Lots of people
  - Jesus & his disciples

- A large crowd that came from Capernaum
- A widow
- Another large crowd
- The people carrying the bier

**8. What are some words that described Jesus' emotional reaction to the situation? Why did his heart go out to her? What in Jesus' life made him even more empathic about the widow's situation? What did he do with his feelings?**

- The Lord saw
- His heart went out to her
- Because of her condition - widow & only son is dead, with no hope for support or livelihood in the future
- His mom was also a widow. His Heavenly Father's one & only Son will soon die a brutal death.
- His actions:
  - He told her "Don't cry." (comfort with the intend to act)
  - went up and touched the bier (causing Him to be "unclean" for 7 days. See Num 19:16)
  - Told the dead person "Young man, I say to you, get up!" (resurrected by just saying a word.)

**9. Let's trace the steps Jesus took to help the widow. What can you conclude about grace in the situation? What can you conclude about Jesus' power & authority?**

- Steps:
  - Traveled 20 miles to help her.
  - Not focus on the attention the crowd gave Him but focus on the widow. Saw & felt her pain.
  - Comforted her.
  - Risking being "unclean" to touch the bier to communicate his love and mercy.
  - Raised her son from the dead.
- Underserved. Initiated by God. Total acceptance and sacrificial loving. The widow and the dead man did nothing.
- He has power & authority over death.

**10. Luke took great care in telling us about the witnesses in this incidence. Why did Luke want us to know about the large crowd and their response? How did they respond? Why do you suppose a town with some many who witnesses such amazing miracles would be denounced by Jesus?**

- This huge group of people were all witnesses. Without a doubt, Jesus has power over life and death.
- Without exception, they were filled with awe & praised God. They concluded that Jesus was either a great prophet or "God has come to help" (properly through a man, Jesus.) Not sure if they have quite recognized Jesus as God.
- They saw the miracles & were probably emotionally impressed but did not take it and allow it to affect their lives. They failed to acknowledge Jesus as God. After a while, they might be numb to the miracles.

**11. What would be an appropriate response from us to Jesus after studying this passage? How can we take heed not to fall into the same condition the people of Capernaum became?**