

# Luke 7

## Luke 7.1-10

-This is parallel to *Matt. 8.5-13*

**V1-2** – Capernaum was the center of operations for Jesus

-Centurion – a non-commissioned officer over about 100 soldiers (modern day junior-officer)

-Centurions were mentioned several times in the New Testament

1. The one in charge of the crucifixion of Jesus – *Matt. 27.54*

-The words of the centurion – **Read Matt. 27.54**

2. Cornelius – *Acts 10.1*

3. The two centurions and their men who were with Paul – *Acts 23.23*

**-What was the centurion's opinion of this slave?** Very dear

**V3** – **To whom did the centurion make a request?** The elders of the local synagogue (maybe the one he had built)

**-Request?** To save the life of his slave

**V4-5** – **What was the basis for the request from the elders?** The centurion was "worthy"

**-Why?** He had built the local synagogue

**V6** – **Did the centurion consider himself worthy?** No

-Remember Peter and the miraculous catch of fish, and the prophet *Isaiah 6* – they did not consider themselves worthy of God's love and attention

**V7** – **What did the centurion want Jesus to do?** Just say the word

**V8** – **What kind of authority did the centurion have?** Total – his men did what he told them to do

**-What point was the centurion trying to make?** Jesus had authority over disease – he also only had to say the word

**V9** – **What was the centurion's faith so remarkable?** He was a Gentile (and also possibly because he was a military man)

**V10** – **The result?** The slave was healed

## Luke 7.11-17 – only recorded in *Luke*

**V11** – Jesus and his disciples were with a large multitude

**V12** – **Who was it that died?** The only son of a widow

**-Why would this have been particularly hard on this woman?** No financial support

**V13** – **What emotion was expressed by Jesus?** Compassion

**V14** – **Why did he touch the coffin?** As a signal for it to be brought to a halt

**-What do the words of Jesus signify?** His power and authority

**-Other resurrections from the dead?**

- Daughter of Jairus (*Luke 8.41*)
- Lazarus (*John 11.35ff*)
- Dorcas (by Peter) (*Acts 9.36-42*)

Old Testament:

- Son of widow of Zarephath (*1 Kings 17.22*)
- Son of Shunammite woman (*2 Kings 4.33ff*)
- Man who touched Elisha's bones (*2 Kings 13.21*)

**-How was the resurrection of Jesus Christ different from these others?** He was never to die again

**V 15** – **Evidence of the resurrection?** The young man sat up and began to speak

**V 16** – **Fear?** Awe (they glorified God)

**V 17** – **What was the result of this miracle?** The news about Christ began to spread everywhere

- Notice the miracles in the Bible: Not: "You're not going to believe this, but anyway...."
- Rather, there were reliable witnesses (Dr. Luke), with a straightforward style of reporting
- What more could Luke have done to verify the miracle?** Nothing

**Luke 7.18-23** (parallel account in *Matt. 11.2-19*)

**V 18** – **Why would John's disciples be reporting these things to John the Baptist?** According to *Matt. 11.2*, John the Baptist was in prison at this time

**V 19-20** – **Their question?** They knew that the time was right for the Messiah

- Maybe John's faith wavered, or maybe he sent his disciples to Jesus so that they would be strengthened

**V 21** – Jesus did miracles in the presence of these two disciples

- Luke: 4 classes of miracles: diseases, afflictions, evil spirits, and the blind were given sight

**V 22** – What a magnificent verse!

- It was not a matter of faith, but belief based on the evidence
- A quote from *Luke 4.18* – at the temple in Nazareth (see *Isaiah 61.1-4*)
- A very emphatic answer

**V 23** – "Don't trip over the evidence"

- We trip over some of the simplest things in life

**Luke 7.24-50**

**V 24** – The disciples of John left – a beautiful section here about John the Baptist

- A tribute to him (now in prison)
- Why did Jesus wait until the disciples of John had left?** Possibly to avoid the charge of flattery
- In what type of terrain did John do his preaching?** In the "wilderness" – John was not a city person at all

-He was very similar to Elijah

-**Explain:** Not a reed shaken by the wind – So many people go with the latest fad in society: Church of Scientology, psychics, political movements, etc.

-They just blow with the wind and don't get upset by anything

-But Jesus here was saying that John was not that way – he was a courageous preacher

**V 25 – How was John dressed? Read Matt. 3.4** – Camel hair garment (similar to horse hair), a leather belt, with food of locusts and wild honey

-**Have you ever wondered how he got the wild honey?** Bees generally don't give up their honey without a fight!

**V 26-27 – Why was John different from other Old Testament prophets?** He was the forerunner of Christ (not just one who prophesied about Christ) – See Malachi 3.1

**V 28** – John the Baptist was a great man

-**Explain the words of Jesus:** The kingdom had not yet come (John would die before the kingdom was established, before the New Covenant went into effect)

**V 29 – What baptism was in effect at this time?** The baptism of John the Baptist

-**How many were being baptized?** Many – even the tax-collectors acknowledged their sins

**V 30 – Who did not acknowledge their sins?** The Pharisees and the experts in the law

**V 31** – A question to stimulate the thinking of the listeners

**V 32** – The people would not respond to any kind of preaching (John's or Jesus') – 2 different styles

**V 33 – What did the people say about John's lifestyle?** He has a demon (in other words, they were not moved by John's abstinence)

**V 34** – Jesus – not as severe personality as John's

-Jesus freely mingled with the people and visited cities

We assume he ate what was put before him

-*John 1.14* – He "dwelt among us"

-*John 2.2* – He went to a wedding

**What were the comments of the people?** *V 34bc*

**V 35** – The wise person would know the truthfulness of these words of Jesus

## **Luke 7.36-39**

**V 36 – Any evil motive here on the part of the Pharisees?** Probably not (See *Gospel Advocate Commentary on Luke*, p. 158)

-This incident is only recorded here

**V 37** – This woman was notorious as a sinful woman

-**Is there anything unusual about this woman following Jesus into the Pharisee's house?** Yes

-The Pharisees were extremely self-righteous and strict

- It took courage for the woman to do this
- Alabaster – See *Zondervan Bible Dictionary, I, 96* (for pictures)

**V 38** – What a beautiful and moving verse!

- Why was she weeping?** The power of Jesus to forgive sins
- She wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair
- According to H. Leo Boles, women were not supposed to let down their hair in public
- She anointed his feet with perfume
- Most preachers and elders know cases of people who refuse to become Christians because they think they are too sinful to be saved

**V 39** – **What were the thoughts of the Pharisee?** Jesus was not a prophet, because he didn't know the background of this woman (a "sinner")

**Luke 7.40-50** – The Parable of the Two Debtors

**V 40** – This verse is worded in an interesting way, as if Simon knew something bad was coming  
 -"Say it – let's get it over with..."

**V 41** – **A denarius?** One day's wages

- What would be the average today for the wages for one day?**
- One man owed 500 denarii, the other 50 denarii

**V 42** – The money lender cancelled both debts out

- Question of Jesus?** Which one loved him more?

**V 43** – Simon showed he was beginning to see things: "I suppose..."

- Jesus: Correct (no argument)

**V 44** – **Do you see this woman?** Maybe Simon really had not "looked" at this woman yet

- He had just lumped her with all the other "sinners" and tramps of the city
- Compare Simon with this woman:**
- Simon had no water for Jesus' feet
- He did not wet Jesus' feet with his tears
- He did not wipe Jesus' feet with his hair
- He did not kiss the feet of Jesus
- He did not anoint Jesus' head with perfume

**V 47** – **What did Jesus do for this woman?** Forgave her of her sins

- Why?** Because she loved Jesus so much
- Who is not forgiven much?** The person who does not love much (???)
- The more sordid the background the deeper appreciation for the church

**V 48** – Her sins were forgiven

**V 49** – This encounter didn't please the other Pharisees!

**V 50** – Jesus ignores their comments and bids the woman "Godspeed"

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