

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE // PART 7 (Ch. 7)**

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**SERMON NOTES:**

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue."

So Jesus went with them.

~ Luke 7:1-6

**Cast of Characters:**

1. Religious People
2. Centurion
3. Servant

**Notes: 1. Religious People**

The way they approach Jesus is stunning. It shows what happens when you live your life steeped in religion and not a relationship with God.

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## Notes: 2. Centurion

A centurion would command a hundred men in the Roman army. The man in our story is a military leader. He is a soldier. He is a warrior. He leads men into war and conflict. Centurions formed the backbone of the Roman army. They had to prove themselves reliable and shown to hold their ground and willing to die at their posts. These were the elite, the best and finest men in the Roman army.

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This centurion, a compassionate warrior, a man of noble character, is breaking down all sorts of class and ethnic and national barriers.

...He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.”

~ Luke 7:6-7

Jesus is amazed by faith, and also by the lack of it.  
You are going to amaze Jesus one way or the other!

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**Notes: 3. Servant**

The status of a servant in Roman society was that of a property. The servant was a tool. He had no rights. His master could abuse him and even kill him. When a slave was no longer of any use, they would be thrown out to die.

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“I have lived these last few years with the conviction that unearned suffering is redemptive. There are some who still find the cross a stumbling block, and others consider it foolishness, but I am more convinced than ever before that it is the power of God unto social and individual salvation. The suffering and agonizing moments through which I have passed over the last few years have also drawn me closer to God. More than ever before I am convinced of the reality of a personal God.”

~ Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., April 27, 1960

**Notes:**

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**Pray for:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## SMALL GROUP RESOURCE PAGE

Each small group is different.  
Feel free to adjust and use what best fits your group.

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### WARM UP:

- Watch this video of a person in authority exemplifying compassion - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtCWOkadGTY>
- Why do these stories touch our hearts?

### ENGAGE:

- What was most impactful to you from this weekend's service?
- Read through Luke 7:1-10.

### APPLY:

- Rajendra framed his sermon on Luke 7:1-10 around a cast of three characters. Which of these do you most identify with these days? Why?
- Do you think God always had a heart for all nations/individuals or did that start with Jesus? (Check out Genesis 12:1-3; Joshua 2:8-11; Daniel 4:34-37 and Jonah 3:4-10; 4:11)

### PRAY:

- Spend some time individually before the Lord, seeking to hear what God is saying about what we are studying these days. Close with Revelation 7:9-10 as a benediction.

### GOING DEEPER:

- Suggested resource – *Luke for Everyone* by N.T. Wright
- If you are not in a Small Group, there's at least one that needs you! Get started at [damascus.com/groups](http://damascus.com/groups)
- Still have questions about Jesus and what it means to be a Christ follower? Join Alpha starting January 27th. Info at [damascus.com/alpha](http://damascus.com/alpha)

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