

Cultivate Gospel of Luke Study

Lesson Fourteen

Read and meditate on Luke Chapter 7 this week  
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Read Luke 7:1-10

Easton's Bible Dictionary- Centurion

A Roman officer in command of a hundred men (Mark 15:39, 44, 45). Other centurions are mentioned in Matthew 8:5, 8, 13; Luke 7:2, 6; Acts 21:32; 22:25, 26; 23:17, 23; 24:23; 27:1, 6, 11, 31, 43; 28:16.

1. Read Matthew 27:54 and Luke 23:47. List all that is said in these verses about a centurion who witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus?

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Read Acts Chapter 10.

2. What do we learn about this centurion?

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3. What was God telling Peter through his vision? Was He meaning Peter's diet? Or something else?

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4. Why is this chapter important for us Gentiles?

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Easton's Bible Dictionary continues, "The centurions mentioned in the New Testament are uniformly spoken of in terms of praise, whether in the Gospels or in the Acts. It is interesting to compare this with the statement of Polybius (vi. 24), that the centurions were chosen by merit, and so were men remarkable not so much for their daring courage as for their deliberation, constancy, and strength of mind.", Dr. Maclear's N. T. Hist."

In verse 7, the centurion demonstrates his faith by recognizing his unworthiness to have Jesus in his home and knowing that Jesus has only to speak the words from afar and that his request will be granted. This is contrary to how he is described by the Jewish elders in verses 4 through 6, where he is touted as "worthy of help." From how he is described by the Jewish elders, the centurion could have easily been tempted to prideful entitlement and demanded Jesus's attention; he instead exercises humble faith that is ultimately rewarded with the healing of his servant.

Charles Spurgeon – "Your faith will not murder your humility, your humility will not stab at your faith; but the two will go hand in hand to heaven like a brave brother and a fair sister, the one bold as a lion the other meek as a dove, the one rejoicing in Jesus the other blushing at self."

5. Is there an area of your life where you have been letting pride dominate? What are some practical ways you can submit this area of your life to the Lord?

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6. Find verses in scripture about the importance of having humility and putting off pride.

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It would have been the opinion of the Jews that a Gentile was not worthy of Jesus' time; but this man was well regarded *even though* he was an outsider.

Proverbs 16:7 *"When a person's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He causes even his enemies to make peace with him."*

7. Read Ecclesiastes 7:1, Proverbs 22:1. What do these verses say about having a good reputation? Can you name a woman whose character fits these verses? Someone who lives their faith out in such a way that she is well regarded? Consider if this can also be said about you. This should be the desire of all of us.

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This man did not just have a blind faith. He reasoned through his own experiences as one in authority over others; and he determined that he could trust that Jesus had the authority to heal with just a word. As Christians, we should walk through our faith journey, using the intelligence and experiences that God gave us.

Isaiah 1:18 says, *“Come now, **and let us reason together,**” Says the LORD” NKJV*

The world thinks that we are fools for following Christ. But God has worked personally in each of our lives. Those experiences cannot be taken away by unbelievers. Remember that we do not have to defend God. Apologetics can be useful tools to help us explain our reason for believing. It can help boost our faith conviction. But in the end, we are to tell people the Gospel, using our personal testimony and The Holy Spirit will do the rest.

Read verses 11-17

We see in this brief story that Jesus has compassion on a grieving mother. So often in scripture we see that Jesus feels deeply for us and he sees our heartache and sorrows. He never writes them off or ignores our trials and tribulations. On the contrary, He comforts us in our deepest affliction.

This passage is one of three where Jesus raised someone from the dead.

8. Read Matthew 9:18-26 and John 11 for the other two instances. Compare and contrast how people reacted to the miracle and the circumstances that brought Jesus to perform the miracle.

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David Guzik – “Jesus spoke to the dead as if they were alive. Romans 4:17 says that this what God alone does; to speak to the dead as if they were alive. God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did (Romans 4:17).”

Jesus gives life! He restores our souls and raises us from the pits of death! May we praise Him forevermore!

9. What are some passages in scripture that talk about God’s comfort?

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10. Share about a time in your life when you needed to rely fully on God and His comfort.

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11. We see in verses 16 and 17 that the miracle Jesus performed was well received by the people. Why do you think this positive initial reception by the Jewish people did not continue?

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The centurion sent a request for Jesus to heal his slave.

There is no indication that anyone asked Jesus to do the “impossible” for this young man. He did it out of pure compassion for the woman, as a mother.

In Luke 5:14, Jesus instructed the healed leper to not tell anyone. Here, He clearly and openly has shown Himself to have authority over death itself; and the news spread through the region.

Read Mark 8:29-31. God reveals more of Himself in His perfect timing.

12. How has God revealed more of Himself to you, the longer that you are a Christian?

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