

Faith in the Power and Presence of Jesus

Text: Luke 7:1–17

Theme: Jesus responds to humble, dependent faith—even when unspoken—and moves with compassion and power into hopeless places to bring life.

Thesis:

True faith is not just confidence in God's power, but surrender to His presence. The stories of the centurion and the widow show us two kinds of faith—one bold enough to ask despite unworthiness, the other too broken to speak. In both, Jesus is moved—not by perfection, but by humility and need. The Gospel invites us to lay down our pride, bring others to Jesus, and trust that His compassion moves even before we do.

Introduction:

What if the biggest barrier between us and Jesus' power is not our weakness, but our pride? In a culture of self-help and performance, we often struggle to ask for help—even from God. The centurion's faith astonishes Jesus because it's clothed in humility. The widow receives a miracle without even asking because Jesus is full of compassion.

Luke 7 is not just about miracles—it's about how Jesus responds to faith that's honest, humble, and hungry for His presence. Some people don't receive because they never ask. Others receive because His mercy outruns their silence. Jesus doesn't wait for perfect prayers—He moves toward desperate hearts.

Correlating Scripture:

Hebrews 4:16

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Quote to Anchor the Soul:

"You don't need great faith—just faith in a great Savior." — Charles Spurgeon

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Barriers to Bringing People to Jesus

What made the centurion's request so remarkable to Jesus? What kind of humility did it take for him to send for a Jewish rabbi?

In what ways can pride keep us from asking for help—from God or others? Who in your life have you stopped bringing before Jesus because it feels too messy, too far gone, or too unworthy?

2. The Gospel and Unworthiness

The centurion said, "I am not worthy..." yet he still asked boldly. How does the Gospel empower us to approach Jesus even when we feel unworthy?

How does this challenge both religious pride and self-condemnation? What's the difference between unworthiness that paralyzes and humility that prays?

3. When We Don't Ask, He Still Moves

The widow never speaks. She doesn't request anything. Yet Jesus steps in with compassion and raises her son. What does that show us about His character?

Can you think of a time Jesus met you when you didn't seek Him? What does this say about the grace of God and how He sees us in our suffering?

4. Presence that Brings Life

Jesus' presence touches a coffin. The dead sit up. His compassion turns mourning into wonder. What areas of your life feel like that coffin—untouchable, dead, hopeless?

What does it mean that Jesus is not afraid of the places you've given up on? How do we invite His presence into those spaces?

5. Becoming Carriers of His Presence and Power

Jesus responds to the faith of those who bring others to Him. In what ways are you currently standing in the gap for others?

Who can you bring to Jesus this week through prayer, presence, or practical help? What would it look like for your life to be known for carrying Jesus' compassion and power into the world?

Application Questions:

- Where is pride keeping you from asking Jesus for help—either for yourself or someone else? What's one step of humility you can take this week to ask boldly, in faith?
- Who do you know that is suffering in silence? Will you commit to bringing them to Jesus in prayer—and maybe even in presence?
- What would it look like to be a person known for bringing the power and presence of Jesus into your family, workplace, or community? What habits can you form to live that out?
- Where do you feel unworthy to pray, ask, or hope again? What does the cross say to that feeling? How will you respond?

Prayer Guide:

- Praise Jesus for being approachable, compassionate, and full of resurrection power.

- Confess the pride, fear, or shame that keeps you from asking or interceding.
- Thank Him that His mercy outruns our silence, our past, and our limitations.
- Intercede for someone who feels too far gone—ask Jesus to move with compassion.
- Pray for your group to be known as bringers of Jesus' presence, power, and hope.

Discipling Reflection:

What would change if we truly believed Jesus wants to move in the lives of others through us?

Who is one person this week you'll intentionally bring before Jesus in prayer and action?

"We are not the miracle workers, but we are the ones who bring people to the Miracle Worker."