

The Gospel According To LUKE

Chapter 7

“God Has Visited His People!”

D) Faith Visited! (v1-10)

- The Centurion is a Roman officer over 100 soldiers. Let's observe his character: (v2) Compassionate, (v3) Observant, (v4) Respected, (v5) He loved the nation & God of Israel, (v6) He had friends—He recognized Jesus as the LORD, “Kurios”- meaning one of supreme authority—He recognized his own unworthiness & the holiness of Jesus (v7) He trusts in the Word of God (v8) He was humbly submissive to the authority of Jesus Christ.

Jesus applauded this man's “great faith”- FAITH (*pistis*) - a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth, a personal surrender to Him, a conduct inspired by such surrender.

We need to be “**faith Visitors**” for someone today! Our faith is in the AUTHORITY of Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that:

#1- His teachings have authority- **Mark 1:22-** *And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

#2- He has authority over the spirit world- **Luke 4:36-37-** *Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out."*

#3-He has authority for judgement- **John 5:26-28-** *For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.*

#4- His authority has been given to us- **Luke 9:1-3-** *Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

(Insight on why this gentile's servant was healed, God spoke to Abraham and said in Gen 12:3- *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*)

II) Hope Visited (v11-35)

Jesus brings hope to the hopeless. A widow's son dies! But Jesus had compassion on her and touches the stretcher (coffin) and he lives! Rom 6:23- *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Eph 2:1-10-* *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

(v16) An example of a great prophet from the Old Testament- 1 Kings 17:20-22- *Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. (Also Deut. 18:15)*

- Old Testament reference to **God has visited His people-** Ex 4:31- *So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.* Let's become “**Hope Visitors**” by offering life to those who are dead in trespasses and sins!

(v19-20) John the Baptist needed HOPE!

(v22-35) Jesus has messengers of HOPE & today we're the messengers! Let's prepare the way for Jesus!

III) Love Visited (v36-50)

Warren Wiersbe writes the following regarding this very emotional event, “Simon and the woman were both sinners. Simon was guilty of sins of the spirit, especially pride, while the woman was guilty of sins of the flesh. Her sins were known, while Simon's sins were hidden to everyone except God. And both of them were bankrupt and could not pay their debt to God. Simon was just as spiritually bankrupt as the woman, only he did not realize it.”

Rom 5:1-2- *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

1 Cor 13:13- *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*
We are people of **FAITH**, messengers of **HOPE** & distributors of God's **LOVE!** Let's go for God!