

Preaching and Teaching
Week of October 10th through October 16th, 2011
Text: Luke 7:1-17

Outline of Focal Passage:

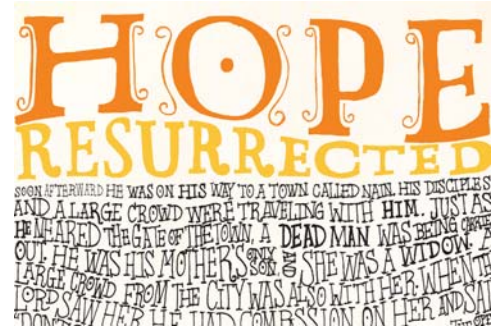
1. Jesus Has Authority (Luke 7:1-10)
2. Jesus Shows Compassion (Luke 7:11-15)
3. Jesus Deserves Praise (Luke 7:16-17)

What This Lesson Is About:

This lesson is about Jesus' authority over sickness and death.

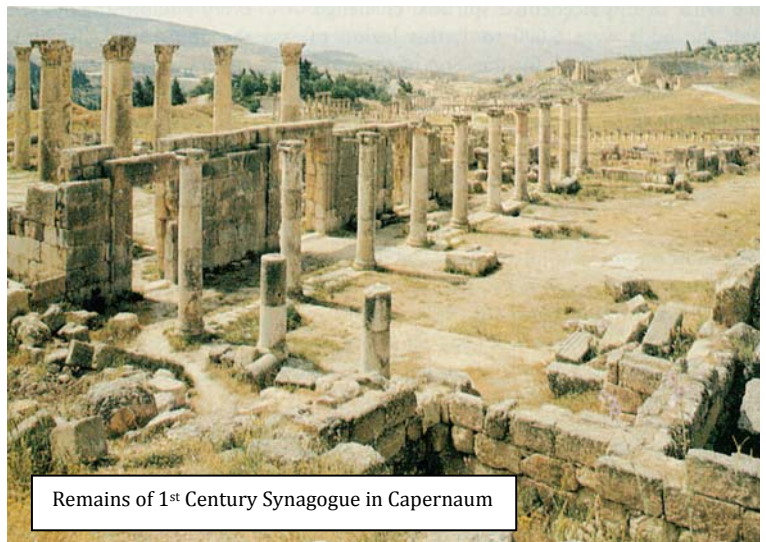
How This Lesson Can Impact Your Life:

This lesson can help you face desperate situations with hope, knowing that Jesus has power even over death.



A. Jesus Has Authority - Luke 7:1-10

1. Jesus entered Capernaum.
 - a. Located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee;
 - b. Home town of Peter and Andrew; James and John;
2. A centurion's slave, who was highly valued.
 - a. A Roman centurion was a man in charge of 1,000 soldiers in the Roman Army;
 - b. Being a Roman soldier and a foreigner, Jews would consider him an unworthy sinner;
 - c. However, this man was considered very kindly;
3. He sent some Jewish Elders to Jesus – to plead the man's case. "He is worthy." Why?
 - a. Loves our nation – probably means he did not treat the Jews harshly as did most of the other Romans;
 - b. Was responsible for the construction of the local Jewish Synagogue (church);
 - c. NOTE: Jesus does not hesitate to go with the Jewish leaders;
 - i. Jesus used this event to show His disciples and us that His ministry did not have any boundaries.
 - ii. Everyone needs to hear the Good News of Jesus.
 - iii. We must ignore racial, cultural, religious and socio-economic barriers to fulfill the Great Commission.
4. Don't trouble Yourself, since I am not worthy, that's why I did not come myself.
 - a. The centurion did not feel worthy to have Jesus come to his house. What is being worthy mean?



Remains of 1st Century Synagogue in Capernaum

- b. NOTE: _____
- c. For Jesus to come to his house was unthinkable;
- 5. Just say the word and my servant will be cured. You have authority over sickness, just like I have authority over my servants.
 - a. Not only was this man humble, but he had an unbending faith in Jesus;
 - b. He believed that Jesus' words would have an effect, no matter where He said them;
 - c. For this reason, Jesus did not actually have to come to his house to heal his slave;
 - d. NOTE: _____
 - e. NOTE: _____
 - f. The Centurion understood authority.
 - i. He was trained to obey orders, no matter when or where they were given;
 - ii. He was trained to give orders to soldiers under his command;
 - g. NOTE: _____
- 6. I have not found so great a faith even in Israel.
 - a. Jesus compares the sizes of faith;
 - b. He saw more faith in this gentile centurion than He had seen in all the Jewish people;
 - c. Note: Only Jesus can make this kind of comparison;
 - d. How would Jesus evaluate the size of my faith?

Since Jesus came for all people, circle the nationalities or ethnic groups below that are represented in our community. How committed are we to include all people groups with the Good News of Jesus?

Hispanic African-American Indian Asian
Middle-Eastern Native-American Eastern European Other _____

B. Jesus Shows Compassion - Luke 7:11-15

- 1. On His way to a town called Nain.
 - a. On first reading one would not see the connection between this story and the previous one;
 - b. Both stories show Jesus' compassion and authority of His powerful word in action;
 - c. Old Testament Parallel: Nain is the New Testament town of the Old Testament Shunem, the place where Elisha restored a lifeless young boy, the only son of a widow in 2 Kings 4;
- 2. Nearing the gate of the town, Jesus met a funeral procession.
 - a. Coffins for the Jews was simply a board on which the dead body was carried to the place of burial;
 - b. Burial was usually above ground in a reusable crypt or cave;
- 3. Seeing the widow and her dead and only son;
 - a. It is a terrible thing for any parent to have to burry a child;

- b. Parents are suppose to die first;
 - c. This was the woman’s ONLY son; Had the woman other children, they could have provided at very least some comfort;
 - d. This woman was a widow; She had already buried her husband;
 - e. How grief-stricken would she have been? She has nobody!
 - f. Without a husband or a son to care for her, this woman would have had no way of making a living;
 - g. She was destitute with no hope for the future;
4. Jesus has compassion on her;
- a. The word “compassion” literally refers to movement of a person’s bowels;
 - b. We often use the expression “a gut feeling” to express where the center of one’s feelings and emotions are;
 - c. When Jesus has compassion it means that His innards went out to this woman; He felt the pain that gripped this woman with such an intensity that He had to do something about it;
 - d. This is the reason the Church throughout the ages has been commanded to care for widow;
 - e. Our concern for widows mirrors God’s interest in their well-being – Deuteronomy 10:18;
 - f. For this reason, caring for widows serves as one of the basic expressions of our sincere devotion to God – James 1:27;
5. Young man, I tell you, “Get up!”
- a. Jesus touched the dead man;
 - b. NOTE: _____

 - c. Jesus speaks to the dead man and he gets up and she starts talking;
 - d. NOTE: _____
6. What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?
- a. The widow never asked Jesus to bring her son back to life; Jesus’ compassion for her recognizes what is needed and grants it to her;
 - b. There is no comment about the widow having faith in Jesus; Jesus’ compassion for her help her in her need without any mention of faith;

Who experienced the following statements? Mark “C” if the statement is true for the centurion; Mark “W” if the statement is true for the widow; and Mark “B” if the statement is true for both.

- ___ He/she was going through a personal crisis
- ___ He/she had faith in Jesus
- ___ Demonstrated faith in Jesus
- ___ Jesus had compassion for him/her
- ___ Asked Jesus for help
- ___ Jesus addressed a specific crisis with a miracle
- ___ Jesus’ miracle proved His authority over evil

C. Jesus Deserves Praise - Luke 7:16-17

1. Fear came over everyone.
 - a. When we see some great and awesome wonder, what's your reaction? Why?
 - b. Because we are forced to realize there is something here much bigger and stronger than we are;
 - c. Fear comes when we are forced to acknowledge that somehow God was responsible for what happened; and since what happened was something good...
2. They glorified God.
 - a. This sense of awe gave way to sincere worship;
 - b. Their holy fear of God led them to Him praise and glory;
 - c. NOTE: _____
 - d. NOTE: _____
3. A great prophet has risen among us.
 - a. Did they make the connection to Elisha's raising of the widow son and thus call Jesus a "Great Prophet?"
 - b. Or did they only accept Jesus as a prophet?
 - c. And if so, did they miss the entire meaning of this miracle?
4. God has visited His people.
 - a. For other people, the miracle proved one tremendous truth – Jesus is God!
 - b. What happened could only be accounted for by God's presence, in Jesus;
 - c. NOTE: _____

As the crowd witnessed Jesus' miracle, they praised God. In the space below, list three things God has done for you that merit special praise. Tell how you experienced both fear and praise in each event.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Take a several moments in prayer to praise Him for the things listed.

D. Biblical Truths for my life from this lesson

1. Because Jesus has absolute authority, we can bring our concerns to Him in faith and humility.
2. We can rest assured Jesus has a heart of compassion for us in our times of need.
3. When we see Jesus working in our lives, we can praise and glorify Him.
4. We can face our most desperate circumstances with Jesus' presence.