

# LUKE Lesson 18

## Chapter 7:1-30, Jesus Demonstrates the Grace of God

5 October 2018

Luke chapter 7 contains four stories that illustrate the grace of God in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are four people who had a need that could only be met by Jesus. They did nothing to earn the gift that Jesus gave them; it was given freely by grace, which is the unmerited favor of the Lord.

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### The Roman Centurion (Vss 1-10)

There are two times in the Bible when Jesus marveled. **Definition of marvel:** “A wonder; that which arrests the attention and causes a person to stand or gaze, or to pause.” In Luke 7:9 Jesus marveled because of the great faith of the centurion. —In Mark 6:6 Jesus marveled because of the unbelief of the Israelite people. These are two opposite responses from people upon hearing the word of God.

- 1-2** A centurion is a Roman soldier in charge of 100 Roman soldiers. This centurion cared dearly for his sick servant. The Bible gives a very different understanding of servitude than what the world teaches. In the Bible, a servant was loved and cared for by the one he served. The centurion had a sick servant who was dear unto him.
- Vs 3** “**He heard of Jesus.**” “Faith cometh by hearing...” (Rom 10:17). “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29). He “believed the report” that he’d heard about Jesus (John 12:38, Isa 53:1, Rom 10:16). He didn’t need to see Jesus perform a miracle before his eyes, he believed, by faith, that Jesus could take care of his need.
- Vs 4** “**They besought him instantly.**” —Jesus wasn’t the last resort when all else failed. The elders of the Jews spoke highly of the centurion, saying that he was worthy of Jesus’ help.
- Vs 5** This centurion respected the Jewish people and didn’t abuse his power over them. He even built them a synagogue. Maybe you know an unsaved person who lives a better life than most Christians you know.
- Vs 6** The centurion sent word to Jesus, telling Him, “**I am not worthy.**” The Jewish elders had said, “**he is worthy,**” but he said, “**I am not worthy.**” Though other people praised him, he didn’t praise himself (see Proverbs 27:2 and 20:6).
- Vs 7** He had faith that the word of Jesus Christ would meet the need of his servant.
- 8-9** He recognized that Jesus was on earth, by the authority of God, carrying out the will of God, and therefore His words would have the power of God. Jesus marveled at this man’s great faith.
- Vs 10** This verse shows that the spoken words of Jesus are powerful. His will is accomplished by simply speaking the word. In Genesis chapter 1 “**God said...**” “**And it was so.**” All things were created by Jesus (Jn 1:3) because “**the Word was God**” (Jn 1:1). The centurion’s love for his servant brought him to make intercession on his behalf. His faith in Jesus’ ability to meet the need resulted in the miraculous healing. Your faith in Jesus (and prayer) can bring about powerful results in your outreach to the lost.

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### The Widow of Nain’s Son (Vss 11-18)

This son was an only child, the son of a widow. His mother would be left all alone in this world if Jesus didn’t step in and meet her need. He did the same for Jairus’ only daughter in Luke 8:42 and for the devil-possessed son (an only child) in Luke 9:38. Jesus has the power to bring light into your darkest hour.

The Bible records Jesus raising the dead three times. Post-mortem time didn't matter. Jesus healed a girl who had just died (Lk 8), a son who was being carried to the graveyard (Lk 7), and a man who'd been dead 4 days (Jn 11). These three examples give assurance to believers that Jesus is able to raise the dead no matter how long ago they died. We will be reunited with our saved loved ones someday. (1 Thess 4:13-18, Jn 11:25).

**Vs 13** When Jesus said, "**Young man, I say unto thee, Arise,**" He wasn't talking to a dead body. He was talking to a living soul. Some religious groups teach that when you die, your soul sleeps (remains dead) until the resurrection. Other groups teach annihilation (destroyed to non-existence). —This verse shows that Jesus spoke to this dead man's living soul.

**Vs 15** "**He that was dead sat up, and began to speak.**" Those who are brought back from the dead are never recorded in the scriptures talking about what they experienced while they were dead. God already told us what happens when we die and where we go. If anyone today claims to have died and gone to Heaven or to Hell and returned, you don't need to buy their book about what they experienced. God already wrote the Book! (See 2 Cor 12:4).

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### **The Doubts of John** (Vss 19-30)

**19-20** John expected that Jesus would begin to establish His kingdom. When he didn't see Jesus proceed in that direction, he began to have doubts. He was a Bible-believing Jew who expected a Jewish Messiah to come and conquer the enemies of the Jews and set up a Jewish kingdom. He wasn't expecting to be locked up in prison at this great time in history.

Many times, we begin to doubt when the Lord doesn't do what we expected Him to do. Will you continue to follow Him during those times, believing that He knows what He's doing?

Jesus didn't promise perfect health, riches, comforts, etc. in this world. Any preacher who promises you those things to get you to receive Jesus (or give money) —is setting you up for a fall. Don't let the adverse circumstances in your life cause you to "look for another." Jesus is the way! (Jn 14:6).

**21-22** Jesus cured many people and gave sight to the blind. That's what God does! (Ps 146:8). What Jesus offers is free to all, rich or poor, by His grace.

**23-27** Jesus told the people that John was "**more than a prophet;**" he was "**my messenger**" (the forerunner) who came to prepare the way before me. In this statement, Jesus claims to be the promised Messiah.

**Vs 28** John was the greatest man "**born of a woman,**" but everyone who's born of the spirit (into the kingdom of God) "**is greater than he.**" (Jn 1:13).

**29-30** Some men "**justified God**" and were baptized. 1 Timothy 3:16, says that Jesus (God manifest in the flesh) was "**justified in the Spirit.**" Justify: to declare righteous. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, that was a declaration by the Holy Spirit that He was righteous. When these men heard Jesus speak, they justified God (declared Him right) and were baptized with John's baptism of repentance.

"**The Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God**" because they held the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18) and chose to justify themselves rather than God (Job 32:2).

When you hear the gospel, you will choose to either justify God (declare Him to be right), or you'll choose to justify yourself (say that you're right and God's wrong about your sin). When you reject God's counsel, you do it AGAINST YOURSELF!

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