

**Teen Bible Study Notes:** Friday, January 31, 2020  
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**The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ – Lecture #41**  
**Book and Chapter – Luke Chapters 7 & 8**

**LUKE 7**

*Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant*

This inspiring story starts by showing us how the centurion's faith translated into love. He loved his neighbors, and they loved him.

**V1** Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum.

*Capernaum* – was on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It's economy centered on fishing and agriculture. It was also the center for Jesus' Galilean ministry (**Luke 4:31-44**).

**V2** And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die.

We are told that the centurion's servant [*the correct translation is literally "slave"*] was **dear to him**. In other words, he loved his slave. This was unusual in those days, as slaves were commonly looked on as just property to be used and sold at will.

**V3** So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant.

**V4** And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was worthy.

**V5** For he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.”

The centurion represented something hateful to the Jews of his day – the government of Rome, a harsh occupation army. And relations between the Romans and the Jews, a subject people, were not the best!

The centurion was able to overcome this by his love for his neighbors, the Jews. In turn, the centurion was loved and respected by the leading Jews of the city, who willingly and instantly pleaded with Jesus to come and heal the slave, even saying that the centurion **was worthy** of the miracle.

The centurion had given of his own money to build the Jews a place where they could worship God. Jesus knew all these things and measured the love the centurion showed.

Do our neighbors have such high regard for us? Would our neighbors put out so much effort on our behalf if we were in the place of the centurion?

**V6** Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, “Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof.

**V7** Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

This is a tremendous example of the centurion’s perspective of himself, even though the elders said he was worthy. Though he was a centurion, a man of rank and high office, accustomed to being shown honor, he did not have an inflated opinion of himself. He knew that he didn’t deserve anything, not even considering himself worthy to speak to Jesus personally, but instead cast himself before Jesus, through the messengers, in meekness and humility.

***But say the word, and my servant will be healed*** – This gives us a rare and valuable example of what living faith is. The centurion obviously knew that Jesus had the power to heal his servant!

**V8** For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.”

What better man to understand obedience and how government works than a centurion – a military man. He said he was also ***a man placed under authority***. He understood that Jesus was under the authority of His Father, under God’s government, but that Jesus had, at His command, all the power of the universe if He needed it.

Jesus’ ***word*** ALONE was sufficient to heal his servant.

**V9** When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, “I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”

The centurion’s ***faith*** is one of the rare cases where Jesus was said to “marvel.”

**V10** And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

### ***Jesus Raises the Son of the Widow of Nain***

**V11** Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd.

**V12** And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

***A dead man was being carried out*** – This was a funeral procession. The cemetery was located outside the city gates. In a town the size of *Nain* many would have stopped to share in the mourning.

**V13** When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”

**V14** Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”

***He touched the open coffin*** – and this *young man* came back to life!

**V15** And he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

**V16** Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.”

**V17** And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

### ***John the Baptist Sends Messengers to Jesus***

**V18** Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things.

**V19** And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

John knew Jesus, because Jesus and John were cousins. However, John was uncertain as to whether Jesus was the one prophesied to come, or not, at this point.

**V20** When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’”

**V21** And that very hour He cured many *people* of *their* infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many *who were* blind He gave sight.

**V22** Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them.

**V23** And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of Me.”

**V24** When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

Jesus spoke very highly of John the Baptist and a great deal of respect for him. Christ is pointing out that John was fulfilling the role he had been given. He was doing an Elijah-like work, and was fulfilling the prophecies directed to him.

**V25** But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts.

**V26** But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.

**V27** This is *he* of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’

Here Jesus quotes from **Malachi 3:1**. John was the prophesied *messenger* to come in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way before Christ’s first coming, in his day.

**V28** For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Christ Himself said – that there was not a greater prophet than John the Baptist!

**V29** And when all the people heard *Him*, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

*The tax collectors justified God* – which means that they responded to John’s message by submitting to John’s baptism. The Pharisees, however, *rejected the will of God*, which means that they refused to listen to John and were not baptized by him (see **Matthew 3:7-12**).

**V30** But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

**V31** And the Lord said, “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like?

**V32** They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we mourned to you, and you did not weep.’

Jesus made a comparison between *children* playing a game in the marketplace and the generation of Israel in His day, referring especially to the Jewish leaders. The leaders were like children in that they complained no matter what tune was played.

**V33** For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’

The religious leaders dismissed John the Baptist as being *demon possessed*.

**V34** The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’

Because Jesus ate and drank with sinners they accused him of being *a glutton and a winebibber!*

**V35** But wisdom is justified by all her children.”

The truth will come out in the end. Wisdom is vindicated when all is said and done.

### *A Sinful Woman Forgiven*

**V36** Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat.

**V37** And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,

**V38** And stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them* with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil.

Although the woman does not say a word in the entire account [*at least in this written account*], her actions speak volumes about her character!

**V39** Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw *this*, he spoke to himself, saying, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman *this is* who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

***If He were a prophet*** – The Pharisee doubted that Jesus' was a prophet because He associated so openly with sinners. Jesus' association with sinners is a prominent theme in Luke. A Pharisee would reject such associations.

**V40** And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he said, "Teacher, say it."

**V41** There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

Jesus often compared sin to a monetary debt. He knew the reputation of the woman, but was more interested in what kind of woman she could become.

A *denarius* – was a day's wage or a common laborer. So ***five hundred denarii*** was about one-and-a-half years wages. ***Fifty denarii*** was fifty days wages.

**V42** And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

***Which of them will love him more?*** Jesus' point is that the woman knew she had been forgiven much, and as a result she would love much.

**V43** Simon answered and said, "I suppose the *one* whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

**V44** Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head.

**V45** You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

**V46** You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

**V47** Therefore I say to you, her sins, *which are* many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little.”

Jesus contrasted the actions of the woman with the actions of *Simon* the Pharisee.

**V48** And He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

**V49** And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

Jesus had the *power to forgive sins!* This blew their minds because they did not truly comprehend who they were dealing with!

**V50** Then He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

Webster’s Dictionary defines “salvation” as: “1. The saving of man from the spiritual consequences of sin; especially deliverance from sin and eternal damnation... 2. Preservation from destruction, failure, or other evil.”

The Bible defines “sin” as – “...sin is the transgression of the law” (**I John 3:4**). The New King James says, “...sin is lawlessness.”

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

So, the Bible defines *sin* as “lawlessness” or as “the transgressing of God’s law”. It also reveals the spiritual consequence for sin – is death. Webster’s Dictionary says that *salvation* saves us from the consequences of sin – which is death – and in this the Bible shows Webster was right!

That being said, eternal life is *not* something we can *earn*, it is God’s gift through Christ! The only wages we earn is death! The Bible very clearly says the *gift* of God is eternal life. We are saved by *grace*. The word *grace* means *favor*. *Grace* is an *unmerited and unearned* act of favor from God to man! God’s greatest act of favor – is God’s calling of a sinner to repentance and the extension of God’s forgiveness, which leads to eternal life.

The Bible teaches that we are justified by grace. Read **Ephesians 2:8** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” **Romans 3:24** – also declares that we are – “...justified freely by His grace...”

**Justification** is the process and result of having our sins forgiven.

**Works** are things we do ourselves.

**Faith** is belief in God, backed up by action, and is a necessary ingredient God looks for before He forgives a sinner.

Finally, **grace** is the favor that God shows when He grants forgiveness – which leads to eternal life.

Therefore to be “justified by grace through faith” (as in **Ephesians 2:8**, for example) means to be forgiven by God (justified) not because of our goodness but because of God’s favor (grace) if we believe Him (in faith). Now that is simple to understand.

We did not earn our calling. We cannot earn forgiveness or eternal life. These are all gifts – examples of God’s unmerited favor – His grace.

And, just because God is a loving God, and because we cannot earn salvation by works, does not mean that we do not need to keep the law any longer. The Bible plainly states that grace requires us to go on and obey the law. In **Romans 6:1-2** – Paul condemned the false teaching that grace means you can sin at will – and so did Jude.

**Romans 6:1-2: V1** “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **V2** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

**Jude 4** “For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, **who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness** and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The woman in **Luke 7:50** – was forgiven by Jesus Christ of her past sins. She was “justified” – her past sins were forgiven. Her slate was wiped clean – and the barrier of her sins, which separated her from God had been removed. She had been “saved” from the spiritual consequences of her past sins. She did not receive eternal life at that time. The woman had to endure and remain steadfast – for it is he who endures to the end that **shall be** saved! (**Matthew 10:22; Matthew 24:13; Mark 4:17; John 6:27; I Corinthians 9:24-27; Hebrews 10:26-27.**)

## LUKE 8

### *Many Women Minister to Jesus*

**V1** Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve *were* with Him.

V2 And certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities – Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons.

V3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

***Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward*** – news of Jesus had reached Herod’s palace. And here we see that even Herod’s steward, in addition to the other women mentioned here by name, used their substance to provide for Jesus.

### ***The Parable of the Sower***

V4 And when a great multitude had gathered and *others* had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:

V5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.

V6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

V7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

V8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

### ***The Purpose of Parables***

V9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

V10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that ‘*Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.*’

### ***The Parable of the Sower Explained***

V11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

V12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, let they should believe and be saved.

***Those by the wayside*** – never really gain an understanding (**Matthew 13:19**) of the word of God before Satan snatches it *away*. There is no real productivity at all.

V13 But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

***Seeds falling on stony ground*** – are the ones who *fall away* in times of trial and temptation [*margin – testing*].

**V14** And the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

***Seeds among thorns – are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.*** The concerns of life can choke spiritual growth.

**V15** But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.

***Seed on good ground*** – This is the praiseworthy group in the parable.

### ***The Parable of the Revealed Light***

**V16** No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.

**V17** For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor *anything* hidden that will not be known and come to light.

**I Corinthians 4:5** “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.

**II Corinthians 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

**Ecclesiastes 12:14** “For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

**Numbers 32:23** “...be sure your sin will find you out.”

**V18** Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him *more* will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.

### ***Jesus’ Mother and Brothers Come to Him***

**V19** Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd.

**V20** And it was told Him *by some*, who said, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.”

**V21** But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

### *Wind and Wave Obey Jesus*

This miracle took place on the Sea of Galilee. Cool air rushing down the ravines and hills of the area collides with warm air, causing sudden and strong storms in this area. Even the experienced fishermen in the boat feared this kind of storm!

**V22** Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, “Let us go over to the other side of the lake.” And they launched out.

**V23** But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling *with water*, and were in jeopardy.

**V24** And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

*They ceased* – God controls the weather!

**Psalm 135:6-7: V6** Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places.

**V7** He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries.”

**Nahum 1:3** “...The Lord has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm...”

**V25** But He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, “Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!”

*Where is your faith?* Jesus’ question was really a rebuke.

*Who can this be?* The disciples sensed the Jesus was more than a prophet!

### *A Demon-Possessed Man Healed*

**V26** Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.

*The Gadarenes* – this was a predominantly Gentile region.

**V27** And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs.

**V28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!”

These demons knew Jesus was the *Son of the Most High God*.

**V29** For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

**V30** Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him.

**Legion** – this name reflects that fact that the man was possessed by many demons. A **legion** was a Roman military unit of about six thousand soldiers. The Scriptures do not give us the exact number of demons this man had been possessed by – but it was a large number as an entire **herd of swine ran into the lake and drowned**.

**V31** And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

**Revelation 20:1-3: V1** “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

**V2** He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

**V3** And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”

The fact that Satan and the Demons must **be released** proves that he will not be able to escape from the pit.

**V32** Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. And they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them.

**Swine** – it is interesting to note that the unclean spirits sought out unclean animals.

**V33** Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

**V34** When those who fed *them* saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.

**V35** Then they went out to see what happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

**Sitting at the feet of Jesus** – this paints a picture of true discipleship.

**V36** They also who had seen *it* told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed.

**V37** Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

**V38** Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying,

**V39** Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

The man who was formerly demon-possessed wanted to go with Jesus and His disciples, but Jesus instructed him to a witness in his own country instead.

### *A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed*

**V40** So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him.

**V41** And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus’ feet and begged Him to come to his house.

**Jairus – was a ruler of the synagogue.** As the main elder he had the responsibility to conduct the service and keep order.

**V42** For he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him.

**V43** Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any.

**A woman having a flow of blood for twelve years** – her condition not only would have been embarrassing, but it would have made the woman unclean (**Leviticus 15:25-31**). It took great courage for her to seek out Jesus. Her action was one of faith!

**V44** Came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

**V45** And Jesus said, “Who touched Me?” When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes throng You and press *You*, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’”

**V46** But Jesus said, “Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.”

**V47** Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

**V48** And He said to her, “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

**V49** While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house*, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

**V50** But when Jesus heard *it*, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."

**V51** When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl.

**V52** Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping"

***Sleeping*** – in Scripture is a common metaphor for death. To God death is likened to a sleep because to God death is not permanent. God has the power to resurrect. That is why Jesus said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping."

**V53** And they laughed Him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

**V54** But He put them all out, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise."

**V55** Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given *something* to eat.

**V56** And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.