

Luke 7:1-17

Astonishing faith and compassion!



The text – Luke 7: 1-17

1. Read Luke 7:1-10. Discuss the main people in this incident. What do you know about Roman centurions? Slaves? Jewish elders?
2. The words of the centurion, conveyed by his friends in 7:6-8, cause Jesus to be astonished. Why?
3. What is “great faith”? (7:9)
4. The actual healing event, as recorded in 7:10, is not actually described. In Luke’s telling of this event, it is the faith of the Roman centurion that is the focus. Why?
5. Read Luke 7:11-17. Why is it so important that we know this woman is a widow and that the dead man is her only son?
6. Discuss the response of Jesus in 7:13. In the Greek text a word that is often translated as “compassion” is used.
7. Luke has set up a contrast between a Roman man (a soldier) and a Jewish woman (a widow). How is this contrast important in the book of Luke? What is Luke’s point?

The Scriptures – Luke 7: 1-17 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. Jesus has already been compared with Elijah and Elisha in Luke 4:24-27. In the events of Luke 7:1-17, the stories of these two great prophets are again in focus. Read 1 Kings 17:17-24. What points of comparison and contrast do you notice between Elijah and Jesus?
9. What is faith? Jesus is astonished by the faith of the Roman centurion in Luke 7:9. Throughout the Scriptures, faith is understood as trust in God’s word. Read and discuss Romans 4:18-25, one of the most important portions of Scripture in this regard.
10. What is compassion? In Luke 7:13 we are told that Jesus had deep compassion for the grieving widow. Read and consider the following descriptions of God from the OT Scriptures: Exodus 22:26-27, Psalm 103:13-14 and Isaiah 49:13.
11. Compassion is spoken about by NT authors such as Paul also. Read and discuss Colossians 3:12-14. How significant is compassion in the life of Christ’s disciples?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Luke 7: 1-17 as a portion of the Scriptures

12. How has this portion of Scripture challenged you? For example, what do you believe about your body – now and for the future? Belief in resurrection is belief that humanness is embodied, and will continue to be embodied for eternity. How does that impact the way you treat your body?
13. How can we encourage your faith? What are some areas in life for which you struggle to trust God?
14. As a result of studying this portion of Luke, what will you do in obedience to Jesus?