

Where We Are (Luke 7:1-35)

What happens when Jesus comes face to face with remarkable faith, incredible loss and honest questions? Luke 7 presents all three and in it we're given a clear pattern of Jesus meeting people where they are – in places of desperation, pain and doubt. Jesus is still doing it; meeting us where we are.

1. Jesus meets *remarkable faith with admiration* (Luke 7:1-10)

We're introduced to a centurion. He had a servant who was about to die – was "highly valued."

We can conclude the centurion was a wealthy, hardworking, generous man. Was a "God fearer" = someone who wasn't a full on convert but worshipped from the outside looking in.

"I am not worthy" "I did not presume (think it was my place) to come to you...but say the word."

This was remarkable faith. Jesus admired it so much so he says *"I've not found this kind of faith in all of Israel."* Whoa. Wait a minute. A foreigner? A person who was in every way on the outside looking in?

The centurion understood authority.

The centurion was exercising the same faith you and I are called to exercise. John 20:29

He trusted Jesus' word would be enough *because* he believed Jesus had the authority to back it up.

Humble confidence that feels unremarkable but looks to Jesus is truly remarkable.

2. Jesus meets *indescribable loss with compassion* (Luke 7:11-17)

We are introduced to a widow. Her husband died not long before and now we're heading to the gravesite to lay her only son in the same tomb.

V13 *"And when the Lord saw her" "he had compassion on her"* = Jesus' heart or literally his "bowels"; inner parts, his "everything" went out to her.

Jesus' compassion for you is so deep he gave his everything so death would not have the final say.

Do we recognize / acknowledge God's authority in Jesus? How will we respond to it?

3. Jesus meets *honest questions and doubts with his very life* (Acts 7:18-35)

John had expectations of what Jesus would do / how it would unfold.

John asks an honest question.

Jesus answers John's questions in V22-23. His answer? His very life.

Jesus' words and actions echo Isaiah 26:9; 29:18-19; 35:5-6; 61:1 = and demonstrate that the promised day (age) of salvation was here IN and THROUGH Jesus.

Jesus wasn't at all threatened by John's question, he actually commends John in a huge way.

Jesus can handle your questions, doubts and expectations.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 7:1-17. A centurion is a Roman military officer in charge of about a hundred soldiers. What do we learn about the centurion in VV1-10? What is he like?
2. Normally Jesus does and says things that surprise people but this is one of the few places where Jesus himself is surprised. What is it that is so surprising to Jesus?
3. How might the centurion's words to Jesus in VV6-8 be a challenging model of faith (and prayer)?
4. Put yourself in the story in VV11-17 alongside the people of the town, those carrying the body, the widow and the disciples. What do you see, hear and feel? What did Jesus see and feel?
5. What do these first two stories in chapter 7 say about Jesus and his mission?
6. It was said, "Jesus' compassion for you is so deep he gave his everything (through death) so death would not have the final say." Why is it so important to remember this when times of desperation and great loss come our way?
7. What does it (should it) look like in your life to acknowledge and respond to Jesus' authority?
8. Do you have a moment of desperation or loss in your life where Jesus clearly met you? How did he do it? Why is it important to remember times where he met us like this?
9. Read Luke 7:18-23. John the Baptist had expectations and questions about the way Jesus was going about things. How did Jesus answer John's question?