

Our Mission:

*To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus*



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

Jesus' ministry in Galilee is intended as a peek into the Kingdom of God. This text invites us to see God's Kingdom as both trans-national as well as inclusive of the least of these. In the first account, Jesus heals the servant of a commander in the foreign occupying force. In the second he shares in the sorrow of a widow who is now alone without her son to provide for her. These stories reveal the radical inclusivity of God's Kingdom. Jesus is not simply the Messiah of the Jews or even the faithful, but the Messiah of the world in need.

Theology Connection:

As has been indicated previously, Luke is written to a Gentile community. The question of authority as well as power is always behind the text. While the powers of this world may have the authority to coerce us into acting a certain way, Jesus is revealed as the one who has authority to liberate us to fulfill God's intentions. While others use power to abuse, Jesus uses his power to serve.

Application:

In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, we may be praying for miracles and the healing of those who are ill. Today's text reminds us that God is not ignorant nor unaffected by our suffering. No concern is too small to bring before God, and indeed God does not necessarily wait for us to ask him for help. As people under God's authority, however, we are asked to trust that whether our prayers are answered in the way we wish or not, God is working for ours as well as other's good. 'God works for good in all things....' (Romans 8.28)

The Text: Luke 7: 1-17

¹When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. ²There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue."

⁶So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

⁹When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you; I have not found such great faith even in Israel." ¹⁰Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

¹¹ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹²As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.

¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

¹⁴Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." ¹⁷This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

ADULT

We exercise as well as live under the authority of others. We call it a pecking order. As followers of Christ, however, we call him Lord, the one who has authority over our lives. How does the authority of Jesus shape your daily activity? Do you recognize such authority or do we in our own way attempt to flip our roles by making demands of Jesus in our prayers? Does submission to Jesus involve a cost? Is there a benefit?

YOUTH

Please read Luke 7:1-17

How do we become effective servants of Jesus?

Do you know anyone who needs to find Christ's love?

If you are like me, you would like to see God reach everyone. But how do I become more effective in serving Jesus by reaching others?

We can learn from this text. It's amazing the faith everyone has in Jesus without even meeting him. It's amazing how many don't question but just follow him and praise him. Think about how you can be more faithful...

Let us pray:

Dear God, Thank you for your word and your faith in us. Please Lord help us be more faithful to you and help us serve your purpose. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

CHILDREN'S

Read and Summarize:

Jesus entered Capernaum, a small fishing village near the Sea of Galilee. Jesus spent much of His time here and performed many of His miracles. There was a Roman Army officer who had a servant who was dear to him, but became very sick. The officer sent people to plead for Jesus to come and heal his servant. The people told Jesus how this servant had built a synagogue for them. Jesus came to the soldier and his servant, and the soldier asked Jesus to heal his servant with His words. Jesus was astounded by the faith of this soldier! When everyone checked on the servant, he had been healed! The next day, Jesus went to a town called Nain where he came across a funeral taking place. He saw a mother who had lost her only son. Jesus said to her, "Don't cry." He went to the coffin and touched it and said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!" The young man sat up and began to talk, all the people were amazed and began praising God!

Think:

1. What would you have done if you had witnessed Jesus performing miracles?
2. What does it mean to have amazing faith?

Remember:

God knows everything about us! He knows how we treat ourselves and others around us. So whatever we do or say, let's try to remember how Jesus would want us to act.

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you for blessing us with Your love! Please keep us safe, happy, and healthy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!