

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 14

In the previous lesson, we studied Luke 6:27-49, a passage in which Jesus challenges us first of all to love our enemies, and second, to be careful when judging others. In loving our enemies, He says that we are to do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, pray for those who mistreat us and give to those who ask without demanding or expecting to be repaid. Our attitude in such matters should be to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, the apostle Paul writes that love is “...patient and kind; it is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

In Luke 6:37-38, Jesus says, “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Paul declares in Galatians 6:7, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

Since a tree is known by the kind of fruit it bears, we should be careful and wise farmers, not foolish ones, and heed the teachings of Jesus by loving the unlovable. Before we seek to remove the speck from another’s eye, we should first remove the log in our own eye so that we might better see how to help our brother.

Before you begin this lesson, please take a moment to pray and ask God for grace to love your enemy, as well as insight to see clearly those “logs” in your own eye before attempting to remove any “specks” in your brother’s eye. Also ask God for insight, knowledge and understanding of His Word as we undertake the study of Luke 7.

The Faith of the Centurion

1. Read Luke 7:1-10.
 - A. Using one of the maps in your Bible, locate Capernaum. What body of water is it near?

 - B. Using a dictionary, define “centurion.”

2. From Luke 7:2-3:
 - A. What is the centurion’s concern?

 - B. What is the centurion’s attitude toward his servant?

 - C. Describe the four ways the centurion shows concern for his servant.

D. How do these activities illustrate the principle outlined in Colossians 4:1?

3. Read Luke 7:4-5.

A. According to verse 4, what do the elders of the Jews say about the centurion?

B. What attitude or emotion do they display in making their request?

C. Using a dictionary, define:

(1) Plead (“beg” in some translations)

(2) Earnestly

D. From verse 5, why did they plead earnestly on behalf of the centurion?

E. How does the centurion illustrate the principles stated in Luke 6:27 and 31?

F. Read Romans 9:1-5 and Luke 4:23-27. The Israelites were God's chosen people, a nation called to be a light to Gentiles. What is ironic about this scenario with the centurion, his servant and the Jews?

4. Read Luke 7:6-10.

A. From verse 6, how does Jesus respond to the leaders' request?

B. Describe what happens as Jesus approaches the centurion's house.

C. What do you think it means to be "a man under authority"? How does the centurion illustrate this principle from his life?

D. What is Jesus' reaction to the centurion's statement? What is the result?

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

5. Read Luke 7:11-17.
 - A. Locate Nain on a map in your Bible. Where is it in relation to Capernaum?
 - B. Describe the scene as Jesus approaches the town gate.
 - C. From verse 13, what is touching and/or comforting to you about Jesus' response to the widow?
 - D. From verse 14, what does Jesus do?
 - E. From verse 15, what is the result? What do we learn about Jesus from this incident?

- F. What is the reaction of the crowd? How is God glorified? How are the people encouraged? What effect does Jesus' action have upon those living in Judea and the surrounding country?

Jesus and John the Baptist

6. Read Luke 7:18-35.
- A. Consider John 1:6-8, 15 and 19-36. Why does John the Baptist send two of his disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" What is going on here?
- B. Luke has already recorded that Jesus healed the centurion's servant and raised the widow's son from the dead. In verse 21 Luke writes, "At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind." How might Jesus' reply (verse 22) be an encouragement not only to John but also to all who are under severe stress, fear or doubt?

C. What does Jesus mean when He says, “Blessed is the man who does not fall away because of me”? (verse 23)

D. How does Jesus honor John the Baptist in verses 24-28? What do you think Jesus means when he says, “I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he”?

7. Read Luke 7:29-35. What does verse 29 mean? (See Matthew 21:28-32 for additional insight.)

Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

8. Read Luke 7:36-50.

A. Contrast the attitudes and actions of Simon and the sinful woman.

B. Who is commended by Jesus and who is chastised by Him?
Why?

C. Read verses 48 and 50.

- (1) What blessings does Jesus bestow upon the woman?

- (2) What is the biblical definition of faith? (See Hebrews 11:1)

- (3) Is faith produced by our own efforts or is it a gift from God?
(See Ephesians 2:8, 9)

D. Read 1 Peter 2:4-8 and circle who views Jesus as

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| (1) the living stone, chosen by God
and precious to him? | Simon | Woman |
| (2) a chosen and precious cornerstone? | Simon | Woman |
| (3) the One to believe in and trust? | Simon | Woman |
| (4) the stone the builders rejected? | Simon | Woman |
| (5) a stone that causes men to stumble? | Simon | Woman |
| (6) a rock that makes them fall? | Simon | Woman |

E. From 1 Peter 2:6, what is the promise of God to those who choose to put their trust in Jesus, the chosen and precious cornerstone?