

Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior
Lesson Nine

[Luke 7:1-10].....Prophetic Actions of a Centurion

vs.3 Centurion was an admirable person (cared about the well-being of his servants too)

vs.4-9 Centurion's statement of faith in verse 7 prophetically shows 2 things:
1. His faith was based on the testimonies of others - The church could not exist if it weren't for the testimonies of others.
Jesus called those who believed without seeing "blessed" (John 20:29)
2. The Centurion sends 2 sets of servants to Jesus (1 Jewish & 1 Gentile)
This is a statement that Jesus is the God of both. It also leads into the Gospel going to the Gentiles (Peter goes to a centurion named Cornelius Acts 10)

[Luke 7:11-17].....Jesus is a Lover of the Least

vs.13-15 Jesus is compassionately moved by this widow
She has already lost her husband, now her only *son*
This type of loss would devastate her more due to the society she lived in
vs.16-17 God is praised and news about Jesus spreads faster
NOTE: Obviously, this foreshadows the fact God raises Jesus (Mary's son) from the dead

[Luke 7:18-35(18-23)].....John and Jesus

vs.19-20 **NOTE:** John has stated that there was one stronger than he who was coming, but he does not identify Jesus as the one(only John's gospel does)
John's question is not of doubt nor displeasure, but perhaps of curiosity and slight confusion. Based on two factors:
1. John's **NOT** asking, "Are you the Messiah or shall we give up on you?"
He's saying, "God's promise is that the one who is coming will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. We believe in that promise, and if that's not you, we'll keep looking"
2. What is the Messiah supposed to do? For John, the Messiah is to baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. He doesn't "hear" of Jesus doing this.
vs.23 Jesus' response can be misleading - "Believe in me & not always what you see"
*We all ask this question about Jesus when we don't understand why things are like they are in our lives. Jesus still gives the same response: "Believe in me and not what you see!"
vs.24-35 Jesus praises John the Baptist (we've covered much of this already)

[Luke 7:36-50].....The "Least" Blesses Jesus

NOTE: Be careful not to bring in parts from other Gospels because it will take away from the meaning of what Luke is trying to do.

- vs.36 They sat on the floor to eat
- vs.37-38 She wanted to be forgiven = did all that she knew of to get her forgiveness
- vs.39 Simon's comment is internal (in his mind); however, the fact that Jesus knew what Simon was thinking proves that he was a prophet
- vs.39-47 Obvious conflict is between Simon and the unnamed woman: She shows hospitality towards Jesus and Simon does not
*Hidden conflict is between Jesus and Simon towards the woman: Simon's righteousness pushes him away from her because she's a sinner; Jesus' righteousness pulls him to the woman because she's a sinner
- vs.44-46 Jesus shows Simon the "true" righteous understanding in verses 41-43
Jesus is saying that the religious elite won't understand him, but the sinners (outcasts, inferior, rejected, the least do understand him!
- vs.47 Actual meaning of this verse is "Because she has been forgiven for much, she loves much; likewise, those who are forgiven for little, love little"