

Spending Time with Jesus in Luke 7

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

First read through: Read Chapter 6 all the way through, imagining you are there.

Second read through: Look for themes and underline them in the color on your key.

What do you notice? **Feel free to ask thoughtful questions here.**

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

Luke 7:1-10

In verse 1, Luke wants us to notice (again) who Jesus was speaking to in chapter 6. *How does Luke describe them?*

So far, we see that Luke describes true disciples of Jesus as people who 1. _____ everything, 2. _____ Jesus, and 3. listen and put his _____ into practice.

From what the centurion says in verses 6-8, what does he understand about who Jesus is?

So far, Luke has pointed out that Jesus, to everyone's utter astonishment:

teaches with words that have _____ (4:32)

*gives orders to impure spirits (that they have to obey) with _____ and
power (4:36)*

has _____ on earth to forgive sins (5:24) IBL

From verses 2-5, why do you think this centurion has a better understanding of who Jesus is than the Jews?

Luke 7:11-17

(If you want to read one of the cool OT stories Luke is reminding his readers of, see I Kings 17:10-24. Jesus also mentioned this story in Luke 4:25-26.)

What amazes you most about this story?

Why does Luke mention that the mother is a widow and that the dead man was her only son?

This event shows that Jesus has authority over _____.

If you were in their shoes...let's say a neighbor or cousin of the man who died, who would you keep your eyes on the most...the man who was raised, Jesus or the mother? Why?

Luke 7:18-35

Have you ever noticed that if you expect one thing but get another, that it's harder to accept?

Look back at Luke 3:7-9. *Has Jesus been doing what John expected the Messiah would do? If not, how has Jesus been different?*

We know from Matthew that Herod had thrown John the Baptist into prison. That is why he sends 2 of his disciples to ask him if he's "the one who is to come". Their question and Jesus' answer are kind of in code. He could have said, "Yes, I am the Messiah," but he doesn't. He answers with a collection of partial quotes from the prophets...things the rabbis taught that the Messiah would do when he came.

What does Jesus mean when he says, "Blessed is anyone who does not stumble of account of me?" (Hint: look at the 1st question in this section.)

Jesus keeps talking in code when John's messengers leave. Jews would not put the image of a king on their coins like we do. A Galilean reed swayed by the wind was the symbol Herod Antipas chose to put on the Jewish coins a few years before Jesus began his public ministry. He liked it because it represented the beauty and abundance of Galilee...and of himself as king.*

John and Jesus have lived close with the Jews. How much do the Jews understand about them? (vv 33-34)?

How much do you think the people of our world understand Jesus today?

Luke 7:36-50

Is anyone else uncomfortable with a woman walking in to this dinner without an invitation? Just me? Ok...well, they didn't think of private property the way we do. The doors were left open during meals so servants...and the uninvited...could walk right in.

Some Pharisees were open to hearing Jesus' words. Maybe this is one of those.

Think through this story from the view of the woman sneaking in to honor Jesus by anointing his feet. She is risking the last shreds of her dignity, and she used most of your savings, if not all, to buy the perfume. Standing behind him, she sees that his feet are still covered in dust...that the host has not provided her Lord with the most minimum courtesy of water to wash his feet. She begins to cry uncontrollably, her tears making trails...and finally washing away the dust. Now what! There's no towel. Not thinking too much about it, she loosens her hair to use it. She's humbling herself. But...only a "sinful woman" would take her hair down when in public. She ignores the whispered gossip and kisses his feet, showing respect for her king, and pours the perfume on him.

Why does she do all this? (v. 47)

Now switch to the Pharisee's view. *Do you think he meant to not provide Jesus with water?*

No one knows for sure, but the fact remains: he didn't show Jesus the honor due a guest, much less an important guest. Then his "slip up" is brought to everyone's attention by this "sinner" providing her tears for water and her hair for a towel. *How do you think he feels when Jesus asks him, "Which of them will love the moneylender the most"?*

What does this story show us about how Jesus sees people?

**Luke for Everyone, NT Wright*