

Luke Chapter 7

- As Jesus finishes His sermon on practical Christianity He enters into Capernaum and begins to perform a series miracles; which were a practical demonstration of what He had been preaching on.
 1. These miracles demonstrated His compassion; to meet human needs.
 2. Theses miracles were part of what He was called to do; part of His credentials, teaching, preaching, and healing.
 3. These miracles were intended to reveal truth, they are sermons in action and in deed, the living word, because that is what Jesus is, the Living Word.

John 1:14 “And the word became flesh...”

1 John 3:18 “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

V: 1-10 The Centurion's faith.



- Capernaum = Village of comfort.
- Parallel passage: **Matthew 8:5-13**
- Luke is considered a fuller account, adding in the involvement of the elders of the Jews and the centurion's other servants.

V: 1 As Jesus ends His teaching on the plain, the same basic message as the sermon on the mount yet distinctly different, both in time and location; He enters into Capernaum – most likely with a large crowd following Him.

- People were naturally being drawn to Jesus as He is ministering to them.
- Capernaum, mentioned 16 times in the Gospels, this is where Peter's house was, a place to rest & spend the night, His CP of sorts as He ministers about the Galilee region.

V: 2 **Centurions** – in the Bible they are always described as men of faith, men of good moral character, always described in positive terms.

1. Centurion @ crucifixion recognized Jesus as the Son of God.
2. Cornelius: Acts Ch. 10
3. Centurion rescued Paul from the mob in the Temple.
4. Another Centurion that conducted Paul from Caesarea foiling the ambush of the zealots who had taken an oath not to eat until they had killed Paul.

5. Another Centurion conducted Paul safely to Rome, ensuring that he wasn't executed during the shipwreck scenario.

- A Roman legion had 6,000 men. A centurion was in charge of a group of 100 men.
- Centurions were proven men of war, battle tested, they had authority and power.

Matthew 8:5-6 “⁵Now when Jesus had entered into Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

- This servant was dear to the centurion.

Proverbs 29:21 “He who pampers his servant from childhood will have him as a son in the end.”

- Paralyzed / palsy: Usually the end result of a venereal disease.
- Swelling of the joints, eventually fusing them together solid, very painful, leads to total paralysis. Leaves the mind intact while the body deteriorates.
- Luke tells us that he was on the verge of death, ready to die.

V: 3-5 The centurion had heard of Jesus – as opposed to seeing or meeting Him personally.



- The Romans were keen to keep an eye on what was going on with the Jews, monitoring events with the intent of keeping order, so it would not be unusual for a centurion to be aware of Jesus' activities especially considering the large number of people involved.

[In the next chapter, Luke Ch. 8](#)

Luke 8:41-42, 49-56 we'll study about Jairus, a leader of that same synagogue there in Capernaum who likewise forgets all decorum and similarly falls down at Jesus' feet and begs for his daughter's life

- Reconciling Matthew's account with Luke's:
 1. Luke is simply a fuller account: The elders of Capernaum, possibly including Jairus – the leader of the synagogue make the initial approach to Jesus on behalf of the centurion – as such, they are his emissaries or ambassadors representing the centurions request to Jesus.
 2. The elders make the initial contact on his behalf; but as Jesus gets closer to his home, he sends “friends” out to speak to Jesus, then finally the centurion himself

comes out and kneels before Jesus – declaring “**I did not even think myself worthy to come to You**” ... or to have Jesus enter his home. (Matthew 8:8)

- Then Jesus marveled at him... V:9
- The elders representing the centurion, and in Matthew’s Gospel the centurion himself both approach Jesus humbly – “**pleading**” with Him – “**begging**.”

James 5:6 “... **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**”

V: 5 Love! Their hearts weren’t won with a sword, but with love. “*For he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.*”

This centurion seemed to embody what Paul was later write about:

1 Corinthians 13:1-8 ([Turn to / read](#))

John 13:34-35 “³⁴**A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.** ³⁵**By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one to another.**”

- These Jews were won over by a loving witness.

V: 6 Jesus responds immediately to the need / request, and He went with them.

Luke 19:10 “**For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”

- Jesus starts off to the centurion’s house, with the elders of Capernaum.
- It occurred to me that normally Jesus is at odds with the religious community, they don’t like Him for a variety of reasons, but when they come to Him humbly the whole situation changes and He goes with them. He’s not just ministering to the Centurion, at that point He’s ministering to the Jewish elders.

Jeremiah 29:13 “**And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**”

- Perhaps the reactions of the elders / religious leaders of Capernaum was different than that of the elders / religious leaders of Jerusalem. (Luke 5, paralytic / power to forgive & heal - progressive?)
- Then not too far from the house they are met by friends, representatives of the centurion who say:

“*Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof...*” (Humility)

- “Lord” (G-2962) kurios, koo’-ree-os; NT equivalent of Yahweh.
- An act and statement of submission.

“I am not worthy” (None of us is worthy!)

Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

- Centurion and Jesus, some apparent contrasts:
 1. A wealthy Roman approaching a poor Jew.
 2. A powerful Centurion seeking a meek carpenter.
 3. A man of war approaching the Prince of Peace.

V: 7 This is where the centurion steps in personally and acknowledges that he is not worthy, which is true of all of us. None of us is worthy of the least of His mercies.

Psalm 34:18 “The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

“... But say the Word...”

- The centurion recognized the power of the spoken Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Psalm 19:7 “The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

2 Timothy 3:16 “¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

- The centurion understood that he was speaking with the One who said “**let there be light, and there was light**” – and that He could just as easily say “be healed” and his servant would be healed.
- He expresses his faith and belief that Jesus can heal his servant.

Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please God, we must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

V: 8 The centurion demonstrates his knowledge and understanding of authority, and of submission.

Romans 13:1-2 “¹Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ²Whosoever therefore resists the power, resists the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

Deuteronomy 27:10 “You shall therefore obey the voice of the Lord your God, and do His commandments and His statutes, which I command you this day.”

1 Samuel 15:22 “And Samuel said, has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- As Christians we need to demonstrate our understanding of the authority of the Word of God by simply being obedient to His Word in our lives.

V: 9 Jesus “**marveled**” 2 times.

1. Here at the centurion’s “great faith”.
2. Later at the Jews great lack of faith.

Mark 6:6 “And He marveled because of their unbelief....”

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- The centurion believed it even though he had yet to actually see it.
- We’re going to get to meet this man in Heaven one day.
- Ironically many gentiles will come to faith in Jesus, and many Jews will miss heaven by 18 inches.

Matthew 22:1-14 King having a wedding feast for His Son, the invited guests didn’t want to come – so the un-desirables were invited instead.

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes; to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Malachi 1:11 “For from the rising of the sun even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense shall be offered to My

name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.”

V: 10 Matthew's Gospel Jesus tells the centurion to go his way, as you have believed, so let it be done for you:

James 5:16b “... The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

- The centurion's servant was healed from a distance, like the other gentile (woman) whose daughter was healed.

Matthew 15:21-28 Greek Syro-Phoenician woman of Tyre from Canaan.

- Jesus has the authority to heal, and to save!
- A few noteworthy points before we move on:
 1. That the centurion would have the compassion and love, a tender heart for his servant to even make this request.

Ephesians 4:32 “Be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted...”

2. That the elders who were generally opposed to Jesus, and also against the conquering Romans, that these elders would be so disposed to not only aid this Roman centurion in his plight, but in the process be willing to humble themselves and approach Jesus to ask this favor of Him.
- Humility is a big factor in this scenario.
3. This centurion must have truly ingratiated himself upon the elders for such a thing to occur, it had to have gone far beyond simply building them a synagogue, (giving & generous) describing him as being “worthy.”
 4. This centurion's faith was contagious, his knowing that Jesus had the power to heal, effected the elders also had some degree of faith, otherwise why would they even approach Jesus? The faith that was present in the elders was also in his friends or they wouldn't have taken on this mission.
 5. Their faith in Jesus was well founded, they weren't disappointed, the servant was healed by our compassionate Lord. The power of the Holy Spirit was present to heal.
 6. Don't under estimate the power of intercession.
 7. Compassion, humility, faith, love, and power seemed to be the deciding factors.
-

V: 11 (Map) The next day, leaving Capernaum and entering **Nain**: Situated on the NW slope of Mt. Moreh, 5 miles South East of Nazareth, name mean “**Pleasant**”. There is a modern city built upon it’s ruins.  (20 or so miles from Capernaum)

- Jesus enters Nain with a large group of disciples accompanying Him.

V: 12 Describing a sorrowful situation: a dead man, the only son of his mother, a widow, and thus he was probably her only means of support.

- One day the crowd is rejoicing over the restoration of the centurion’s servant, the next day they come into town and there is a great funeral procession.

V: 13 **He had compassion on her**: in the midst of the crowd Jesus focuses on the one who had the greatest need at that moment – a grieving mom.

- Compassion: (G-4697) splanchnizomai, splangkh-nid'-zom-ahee; to have the bowels yearn, feel sympathy, to pity:--have (be moved with) compassion.

Psalm 86:15 “**But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.**”

- This broken hearted woman was no doubt weeping and grieving at the loss of her son – Jesus told her not to weep because soon she would be rejoicing.

Psalm 30:5 “... **weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.**”

V: 14 When Jesus touched the open coffin He would make Himself ceremonially unclean – but not so if the person were alive... those that were carrying the body then stood still to see what this Rabbi wanted.

- Jesus said “*Young man, I say to you arise.*” – the same voice that called the earth into existence, that said let there be light and there was light – the power of God Almighty said to arise!
- Each time Jesus raised someone from the dead, He spoke directly to them.

V: 15 **And he arose! He sat up and began to speak, and was delivered to his mother.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 “**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**”

- 3 raised from the dead:
 1. Jairus’ daughter – **Luke 8:55** – **came to life hungry.**
 2. Widow’s son – **Luke 7:15** – **came to life speaking.**

3. Lazarus – **John 11:44** – came to life walking.

2 Corinthians 5:17, new creatures alive in Jesus should be **HUNGRY** for the Word, **SPEAKING** the truth of Jesus, and **WALKING** with Jesus, no longer bound by sin!

V: 16-17 **Fear?** Yes, they just realized that God is real! If He's real then they are going to be held accountable.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

- “**Great prophet?**” - Much more than that but they are headed in the right direction even if at the moment they are not quite there yet. Jesus has been elevated from a great teacher to a great prophet - they know that God has visited His people.
- His fame is spread all through the region.

V: 18 Some of John the Baptist's disciples were in the crowd and saw Jesus raise the widow's son back to life, and they reported to John what was happening.

V: 19-20 John is in prison for speaking the truth, for speaking out about Herod Antipas and Herodius. Antipas had gone to Rome and there met Herodius, grand daughter to Herod the Great, and wife to Herod Philip. Herod Antipas came home and divorced his wife, then took Herodius as wife.

Matthew 14:3-4 “³For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴For John said unto him, it is not lawful for you to have her.”

- As Jesus exhorts us and encourages us – there is still no guarantee that we won't end up in jail, or martyred for our faith – just as John the Baptist was.

Matthew 24:9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.”

- Speaking truth can be a risky business.

Paul declared:

2 Timothy 3:12 “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

Matthew 11:2 “*When John had heard in prison about the works of Christ...*” - His fame spread abroad, everybody knew what He was doing.

- John the Baptist, languishing in prison becomes somewhat discouraged it seems. He knows that Jesus is the Messiah but doesn't understand what is taking so long.
- John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah, who was also at times discouraged.
- John, like the others is also looking for the "conquering King" Vs the humble "Servant".

There were others that were disappointed and impatient as well:

Genesis 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be."

Numbers 24:17 "I shall see Him, but not now: I shall behold Him, but not near; there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the corners of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult."

- Not long after Jesus was born the Romans took the power of capitol punishment away from the Jews (4 AD), removing the scepter. The Priests, Scribes, and religious leaders all began to mourn and lament because the Word of God had somehow failed. The Scepter had been removed, but where was the Messiah? Not knowing that He has been born of a virgin and was growing up in their midst.

V: 21 They're asking the questions while at the same time Jesus is healing many of their afflictions, driving out demons, restoring sight. (Duh...!)

V: 22 They are told "go and tell John" - testify to what you've seen.

- John came in the spirit of Elijah – **Luke 1:17** – and like Elijah he was at times discouraged. (Word!)

Isaiah 55:8-9 "8For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

- Not given a direct answer, tell John – prophesy fulfilled. (Word!)

Isaiah 35:5-6 "5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert."

Isaiah 29:18-19 "18And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. 19The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel."

- Credentials:

John 14:11 “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the very works sake.” (Nicodemus)

V: 23 Jesus is always the sticking point, He is the rock of offense.

1 Peter 2:6-8 “⁶Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” ⁷Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” ⁸and “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”

Matthew 10:32-33 “³²Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. ³³But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

V: 24 A reed shaken by the wind?

- John’s disciple depart to give him the answer that he sought from Jesus.
- Jesus then addresses the multitudes concerning John the Baptist.
- What did you go out to see? (3x’s) A reed shaken by the wind, grass blowing in the breeze?
- They heard that there was a Levite, the son of a priest out in the wilderness preaching the soon return of Messiah and the need to repent.

John 1:6-8 “⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through Him might believe. ⁸He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”

- Multitudes were going out into the wilderness to hear him. There hadn’t been a prophet in 400 years speaking the Word of the LORD and they were drawn to him because of that. 
- There were some, perhaps a remnant that were curious, thirsty for the Word of God, and they went out to see and hear John.

Luke 3:2-3 “²While Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the Word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

When the priests and religious leaders came out to see what was going on:

Luke 3:7-8 “⁷Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father.””

- People were coming out in droves including tax collectors, and soldiers. He wasn't preaching an easy message.
- Nope, John stood against the culture, he swam against the current, he was uncompromising in his convictions - which is what landed him in prison. John was no pushover.
- He knew what he believed and why he believed it - because God has spoken it to him. The Word of God had come to Him.

2 Peter 1:10 “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”

Ephesians 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive,”

- One of the things lacking in the church today is total commitment.

James 1:8 “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

- When we stand firm in our convictions we open ourselves up to criticism from almost every quarter.

Psalm 60:6 “He only is my Rock and my Salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.”

Ephesians 6:13 “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

V: 25 Jesus is challenging their perspective and their expectations. They may have been looking for or expecting a charismatic leader, some kind of imposing presence, and expectation that might not match up to reality.

- This is the thing that would keep many from recognizing the Messiah when He came. There was an expectation of a conquering hero, a military man who would restore all things through the conventional methods of the day. They weren't looking for someone to come as a humble servant, someone who would suffer and die for their sins. (**Isaiah 53:2** no beauty / comeliness)

- What did you expect? What do we expect? Stylish suit? Hipster? Soul patch, tats? Lumberjack pastor? Car / leer jet?

2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

- Soft clothes? No! Camel’s hair & leather.

Matthew 3:4 “Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist...”

- No soft clothes, no soft life!

2 Timothy 2:3 “You therefore must endure hardship, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

V: 26-27 More than a prophet, a herald.

Quoting:

Malachi 3:1 “Behold, I will send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts.” (John fulfills this prophecy)

John’s testimony:

John 1:6-8 “⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”

John 1:19-23 “¹⁹Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ,” ²¹And they asked him, “What then. Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” (Deut. 18) And he answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself? ²³He said: “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the LORD,” as the prophet Isaiah said.” (Isaiah 40:3)

- Not a fulfillment of **Malachi 4:5-6**.

Malachi 4:5-6 “⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: ⁶And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

John the Baptist did come in the Spirit of Elijah:

Matthew 11:14 “And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.”

V: 28 Greater than Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah? According to Jesus, “yes.”

1 Peter 1:10-12 “¹⁰Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹²To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - things which angels desire to look into.”

- Jesus was speaking of John’s privilege, not his character. A person who is least in the kingdom of heaven does not necessarily have a better character than John, but he does have a greater privilege.
- To be a citizen of the kingdom is greater than to announce its arrival.
- Technically the Old Testament ended with John the Baptist, not **Malachi**.

Luke 16:16 “The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.”

- The Tanakh, also known as the Masoretic text, the canon of Hebrew scripture, or the Hebrew Bible, which is what we call the OT, actually ends with 2 Chronicles, the poetic and prophetic books are all part of that chronology. This is different than Torah (1st 5 books of the Bible)

V: 29-30 When all the people heard what He said, even the tax collectors, the worst of the worst “justified” God. Declaring that what was said was righteous and true, giving glory to God.

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- These two verses point out the obvious difference between those like the tax collectors that heard John and were baptized in his baptism of repentance and the Pharisees and Scribes who rejected the will of God, their salvation, and were not baptized, meaning they were not at that time repentant.
- Repentance involves humility, admitting that they were wrong, and seeking God’s forgiveness. Doing these things leads to salvation which ultimately is God’s will.

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

1 Timothy 2:3-4 “³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Matthew's Gospel records Jesus ending this teaching with:

Matthew 11:15 “He that has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Revelation 2:7 “He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches;...”

- I hope and pray that would describe all of us today, that we have ears to hear what He would speak to us today, and a heart to receive. That we would be humble before Him, willing to admit our faults and ask for His forgiveness.

Paul describes:

2 Corinthians 6:2 “For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

- What was the difference between the tax collectors and the Pharisees and Scribes?
- Pride. The tax collectors were willing to admit that they were sinners in need of a Savior. The tax collectors were willing to repent and forsake their sin. The religious leaders weren't willing to admit, repent or forsake their sins.
- The tax collectors let go of their sin and took hold of salvation; the Pharisees and Scribes wouldn't let go of their sin and thus were unable at that time to take hold of salvation.
- I hope and pray that none of us would make that same mistake.

Romans 10:9-13 / Gospel.

Reading: Luke 7:24-50

Context: Sinners are repenting and humbling themselves, the religious leaders are saying they don't need to repent and rejecting the will of God for their lives.

V: 31-32 Jesus uses a common occurrence of the day: children at play.

- They didn't have books, Tonka trucks, TV's, or I-pads – the children made up their own games, games that often mimicked life.

- Two of the bigger events that took place around them were weddings and funerals, a time for dancing, and a time for mourning.
- To whom shall I liken this generation, to whom shall I compare them?
- They're like children playing in the marketplace.
- Children are at times used as positive examples of innocence, of child like faith, etc – but another characteristic of children is that they lack maturity and are either un-learned or oblivious.

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

- There is a need for us to grow, to mature, to be strengthened in our understanding of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷that the man of God may be perfect (complete, mature) thoroughly equipped for all good works.”

- They / we all need the word of God to grow and to mature, yet they are rejecting the Word of God over their traditions.

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶He answered and said unto them, well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things you do. ⁹And He said to them, full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.”

- Those that have prided themselves on being the guardians of wisdom, He refers to as children.
- I've piped / played a joyful song for you and you wouldn't dance.
- I played a mournful song for you, and you wouldn't play along with that either.
- Nothing makes you happy. ☹️ Fleshly...

Galatians 5:19-20 “¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰Idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- Sadly, it's the works of the flesh, that characterize those who refuse to repent, those who reject the will of God.

1 Timothy 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

V: 33 John came neither eating nor drinking – he was dedicated to the Lord with a Nazarite vow, and gave himself to fasting often.

The angel Gabriel spoke to Zacharias, John's father in the temple:

Luke 1:15 “For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.”

Nazarite vow: Temporary or life long, as consecrated by parents.

1. Hair, no hair cuts.
 2. No alcohol or wine, nothing made from grapes.
 3. No contact with dead things.
- John is fasting, he's proclaiming the coming of the King – he is deflecting all glory and attention to God – he's not claiming to be anybody.
 - John is living an exemplary life – yet they say he has a devil!

These guys are on pretty shaky ground:

Isaiah 5:20 “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

Proverbs 17:15 “He that justifies the wicked, and he that condemns the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord.”

V: 34 “**Son of Man**” speaking of Himself, a prophetic title from **Daniel 7:13**, Jesus' most used title to speak of Himself, particularly in this Gospel.

- Jesus came eating and drinking, having meals with seemingly anyone and everyone – all to minister the Good News to those He communed with.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- They accused Jesus of being a glutton and a drunkard, a friend to sinners – they were partly right – He is a friend to sinners!

What are His options? If He eats with anybody, they're / we're all sinners!

Romans 3:10 “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one;”

- There are some people that you just can't please no matter what.
- Some people think it's a gift to find a fault...

- They call it “The Devil’s advocate...” for a reason.
- Can’t keep everyone happy.
- Given that choice, it is best to seek to please God.

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Make pleasing God your #1 priority!

V: 35 “*Wisdom is justified of her children*”, meaning that wisdom is proven or born out over time, by it’s offspring, the results, the fruit of it.

James 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

- The wisdom of the Lord is not always bourn out in agreement with the academic standards of the world, or by the majority – it is bourn out in changed lives! Drug addicts that have been set free, violent men who have repented and live life differently, those who were reckless and un-caring who now walk circumspectly in a loving way – countless multitudes who have been raised up to a new life in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 12:33 “... for the tree is known by his fruit.”

V: 36 Ironic that Jesus was criticized for eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners, but the very next illustration is Jesus doing just exactly that, being invited to the home of a Pharisee for a meal.

- Jesus goes to where He’s invited, to the house of a Pharisee, a religious leader, to the house of a publican / tax collector, like Matthew and Zacchaeus, or to ordinary homes like Lazarus, Mary, and Martha – to ordinary people like us if we would invite Him.

Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.”

V: 37-38 Security? She only went there because of Jesus, otherwise I assume she wouldn’t have dared set foot in a Pharisee’s house.

- This woman, a sinner of some reputation. I was told the word sinner in this case is also translated “prostitute” – but I couldn’t find any evidence of that.

- The word used here is (G-268) “hamartolos” which means sinner, or even “more wicked than others” - which we could perhaps imply or conclude that she was a prostitute, but the word used here doesn’t speak that definitively.
- There is a word translated as “harlot” in the KJV / NKJV, and “prostitute” in most of the modern translations it’s the Greek word (G-4204) “porne” - but that is not the word used here in our passage. I guessing that if the Holy Spirit wanted to say she was a prostitute He would have said so.
- She knew that Jesus was at the Pharisee’s house having a meal and went to Him.
- How did she gain entry? Courtyard, guests to feast vs: observers.

- While there are similarities to the event that took place with Mary the sister of Lazarus in Simon the leper’s house **Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9 & John 12:1-11** this is not the same event.
- Mary’s anointing happened 6 days before the crucifixion, in Bethany, being done for His burial.
- This event happened earlier in Jesus’ ministry in the Galilee region somewhere between Nain, Capernaum, and Magdala – right after the previous teaching which ended in Matthew’s Gospel with Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 11:28-30 “²⁸Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” Simon leper vs: Simon Pharisee.

- (Both the time, location, and host are different.)

- This woman accepted that invitation and began to follow Jesus – even to the house of a Pharisee.
- This woman is worshipping Jesus in complete humility, she surrendered her glory at the feet of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:15 “But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.”

Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

- Initially she stood behind Jesus as He reclined at the table, then she knelt down and began to wash His feet with her tears, wiping His feet with her hair.

- She kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment contained in a very expensive alabaster box – meaning the contents were probably very expensive as well.

V: 39 Simon the Pharisee (vs: Simon the leper) notes that Jesus, a Rabbi, and supposedly a prophet is allowing this woman, a sinner to touch and thereby defile Him.

- He didn't say it out loud, he thought it in his heart - just like the other time when the paralytic was lowered through the roof. Jesus in His omniscience knows that Simon is thinking.

Psalm 139:1-2 “¹O LORD, You have searched me and known me. ²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.”

- Simon is operating based on what he understands are the rules / traditions concerning these things, Jesus is about to use this situation to instruct him.

V: 40-43 Jesus doesn't rebuke Simon, He instructs him through a parable or hypothetical situation, to his credit Simon is willing to hear Jesus out.

Proverbs 9:9 “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.”

- Simon answered correctly; the greater the debt, the greater the forgiveness, and the appreciation for that forgiveness.
- Those who have truly been “saved” from something are grateful for that salvation; those who are forgiven much love much. (Heroin addicts vs: YG kids)
- Those who are forgiven little, or at least think so – don't appreciate their salvation nearly as much – it's all too hypothetical or academic.

Psalm 116:16-18 “¹⁶O LORD, truly I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds. ¹⁷I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. ¹⁸I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all His people.”

- How would we describe the creditor who forgave both their debt? Gracious, merciful, compassionate, forgiving, loving, kind..... Jesus!

V: 44-46 Jesus points out to Simon that he's been negligent in the most basic points of common courtesy regarding a guest – ordinarily a guest would be treated with the utmost of respect and be afforded specific courtesies – or they wouldn't be invited in the first place.

- It was a common courtesy to have a guests feet washed, to anoint them with oil, and to receive them with a kiss – none of which Simon did, a cultural slight, treating his guest as an inferior.
- This woman on the other hand has done all the opposite to the extreme; washing Jesus' feet with her tears, and wiping His feet with her hair. This woman was continually kissing Jesus' feet – an act of worship, devotion, and deep humility. She anointed Jesus' feet, not presuming to touch His head.

Paul exhorts us to greet one another with love:

Romans 16:16 “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.”

Hebrews 1:9 “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

Isaiah 61:1, 3 “¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;” - “³to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

V: 47 Jesus doesn't ignore the sin in her life, He like the woman herself, acknowledged the sin in her life – so that it could be dealt with in a Biblical manner

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- True to the parable; because this woman has been forgiven much, she indeed loves much.
- Also true to the parable, because Simon has been forgiven little, if at all – he loves little as is manifest in the discourteous treatment of his guest.

V: 48-49 How does she know she's forgiven? Jesus tells her.

- How do we know that we're forgiven? Same way, God's word!

Psalms 32:1 “Blessed is the man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

- This Pharisee like the others when the paralytic man was lowered through the roof, and Jesus forgave His sins publicly thought the same thing in his heart – that this “man” blasphemes because only God can forgive sins.
- He is right in a way, only God can forgive sins.

Psalm 51:4 “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight: that You mightest be justified when You speak, and be clear when You judge.”

- Jesus is most likely to have only been invited because He has just healed the centurion’s servant – which Simon would have known about, and because He had raised the widow’s son back to life – both of which have caused this Pharisee to become more curious about Jesus.
- Who heals? Who raises the dead? Only God can do that. Add to that He’s forgiving sins... these are all clues intended to lead this Pharisee to a right conclusion.

V: 50 Turning His attention to the woman, ministering to her need Jesus tells her that her sins are forgiven her, “your faith has saved you – go in peace.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹not of works, lest any man should boast.”

- Her faith was manifest in her actions, in her very overt worship, in her humility, and sacrifice.

James 2:17-18 “¹⁷Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yes, a man may say, you have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

- Works if done for the right reasons, to glorify God, are truly faith in action.

Galatians 5:6 “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

- The only faith that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

“... *go in peace.*”

- We have no peace until we have His forgiveness!

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”