

Luke

Lecture 8: Chapter 7

7:1-10 – The faith of the centurion

a centurion – for Luke's original readers... "one of us" (a non-Jew)
loves our nation...built our synagogue – there's respect for centurions throughout N.T.
I do not deserve to have you under my roof – contrast his attitude w/Pharisees!
but say the word – Jesus need not be physically present... same w/us...
he was amazed - the centurion? the crowd? the healed man? No. Jesus!
such great faith – the object of Jesus' amazement

An application: The healing that Jesus accomplishes is not nearly as celebrated in this story as the marvelous _____ of the centurion. That faith is also a miracle. We can celebrate today the marvelous miracle of faith that the Spirit works through the Word in us and others.

7:11-17 – Jesus raises a widow's son

a town called Nain – in Galilee...a few miles SW of Nazareth...25 mi. from Capernaum
"Young man, I say to you, get up!" - cf. w/Elijah's healing...Jesus is greater
"Don't cry."...the dead man sat up - another glimpse of heaven! (thy kingdom come)
"God has come to help his people" – true on several levels (...Immanuel)

7:18-35 – Jesus and John the Baptist

ask, "Are you the one..." – two possibilities: 1) for the disciples 2) John wavers (Judge?)
report...what you have seen and heard - Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-2 (recall his first sermon)
Blessed is the man who does not fall away – ("stumble") encouragement to John...to us!

An application: Pharisees and experts of the law "stumbled" over Jesus; so did the people at his home synagogue in Nazareth. Jesus encourages John and his disciples not to _____ away. Those words also apply to _____ who need the same encouragement as the great prophet!

no one is greater than John...yet the one who is least...is greater - (!) That Jesus!
they are like children - in a negative sense... they cannot be pleased
John the Baptist...The Son of Man - kind of like Law & Gospel in the flesh! (John 1:17)
wisdom is proved right by all her children - "Time will tell"...in the end, truth will be clear

7:36-50 – Jesus anointed by a sinful woman

invited Jesus to have dinner – possibly to gather more ammo vs. Jesus
a woman who had lived a sinful life - Luke showcases people on fringe of Jewish society
(tradition assigns this role to Mary Magdalene, but Scripture does not say)
stood behind him at his feet - reclined on floor around table (normal then, strange to us)
he said to himself...Jesus answered him - ! as in last week, Jesus knows the heart
two men owed money...cancelled the debts of both - a simple story w/ very clear meaning
sins have been forgiven--for she loved much - which comes first? in parable: Forgiveness!

An application: Jesus praises the faith of the centurion and the sinful woman. Faith saves, but is never alone. A living faith demonstrates itself by _____ for Jesus. Everyone who truly experiences forgiveness of sins will find ways to show love for Jesus. (How? One way..."when you did it for the least of these...you did it for Me.")