

FINAL STUDY NOTES - *LUKE Chapter 7* 2-17/18-2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using WAZE (waze.com/live-map) or MapQuest (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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Recording

OPENING PRAYER

LUKE – Chapter 7 – Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant – (vs. 1-10); Jesus Raises the Son of the Widow of Nain – (vs. 11-17); John the Baptist Sends Messengers to Jesus – (vs. 18-35); A Sinful Woman is Forgiven – (vs. 36-50).

- In chapters 7-8 there is a coming together of the ministry of Jesus:
 - ✓ **Miraculous Signs**, which again authenticated that He is the Messiah; (*Luk 7:1-7; 36-50; 8:22-56*) and
 - ✓ **His Teaching**, which has authority based on the message He was proclaiming in *Luke 4*: He used *Isaiah 61:1-2* as His mandate: *Luke 7:18-35; 8:1-21*.

- ✓ *In Chapter 7 we encounter four hurting people; A Dying Servant; A Grieving Widow; A Perplexed Prophet; and a Repentant Sinner.*

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant - A Dying Servant:

Luk 7:1 Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people (The Sermon on the Plain), He entered Capernaum.

Luk 7:2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die.

- **There are several mentions of centurions in the scripture.** They were Roman officers who were equal in rank to an army captain, commanding over one hundred men. They were select and chosen, special men and in the scriptures, every mention of a centurion is in a positive light. This particular centurion had a servant who was dear to him, *ready to die*.

Luk 7:3 So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant.

Luk 7:4 And when they (messengers) came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving,

Luk 7:5 "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

- **The centurion sent these men, who were elders of the Jews.** They came to Jesus, saying this man is worthy. He loves our nation, and he has built our synagogue. He is an unusual man, having many spiritual characteristics.

Luk 7:6 Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof."

- **Now they said of him he was a worthy man.** He is saying, "I'm not worthy that You should enter under my roof." He is saying, "I am not really capable of entertaining you." A Jew was not to enter into the house of the Gentiles. I am certain that Jesus would have entered his house had he not sent these second messengers. But he probably realized that it would have created just further controversy between Jesus and the Jews.

Luk 7:7 Therefore I did not even think myself worthy (deserving) to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

- **Here he uses the same word that they used when they said he is a worthy man.** He says I did not feel that I was worthy to come to You! So, you have their opinion of him, you have his opinion of himself. They said he is a worthy man. He said I did not feel that I was worthy to come unto you.
- **My worthiness? (Joh 14:23)** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.
- **How worthy am I, for You my Jesus, to come into my heart? How worthy am I to come to You, Jesus? Just how do I see my level of worthiness? Of unworthiness?**

Luk 7:8 For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

- **He is saying, "I know what authority is about.** I also am under authority, recognizing that Jesus was under the authority of the Father. I know authority. I also am under authority, but I have men under me.
- **Now here is a necessary prerequisite for anyone who is to exercise authority in a proper manner.** The man who can truly rule is the man who understands that he is ruled. That I am under a set of laws. I am under a set of rules. I have authority, but I am under authority. I am not the final authority. This man understands the chain of command. Being a military man, he knows what authority is about.
- **Recognizing the authority of Jesus, he said, I understand Your authority.** Lord, I know that You have the authority to just speak the word, and my servant will be healed! You do not have to come to my house. I know Your authority. I recognize Your authority. I am also under authority. I recognize what it is all about. "I say to one, Go, and he goes; and I can say to another, Come, and he comes; and I know that all You have to do is just say it. Just say the word and my servant will be healed."

Luk 7:9 When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

- **Jesus marveled!** Twice in the Gospels Jesus marveled! Here He marveled at the centurion's faith. In Nazareth, He marveled at the Jews' unbelief. (Mar 6:6) And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

- **I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!** What a heavy indictment! The centurion had faith Jesus had not found in all of Israel! His certainty was simply expressed in "***But say the word, and my servant will be healed!***" What faith! No conditions, no probabilities, what confidence!
- **The only other person commended by Jesus as having great faith** was the Syro-Phoenician woman in (Mat 15:28) *Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.* In both of these instances, Jesus healed at a distance.

Luk 7:10 *And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.*

- **Jesus remarks in a positive way** concerning this man's comprehension, concerning his faith. *I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!*
- **Oh, how that I, that we, with our greater available revelation of God, our being filled with the Holy Spirit, might we have such faith as the centurion! "I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"**

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son - A Grieving Widow:

Luk 7:11 *Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd.*

Luk 7:12 *And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.*

Luk 7:13 *When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep" (do not go on crying)."*

- **Here we have a very graphic picture. There are two crowds, two multitudes.** One is coming to the gate of the city. They are a happy, smiling crowd. They are an amazed crowd, at the things that Jesus is doing. They have been watching the miracles. They are an expectant crowd!
- **There is another crowd coming out of the city,** led by the mourners who are wailing. We see in this crowd coming out of the city this reed basket, in which there is a body that is being carried to the burial place which is just outside of the little village of Nain. Today you will find this place filled with tombstones, just sarcophaguses, right outside of Nain. They are carrying this body to place it in one of these limestone sarcophaguses.
- **Jesus' attention was drawn to the little woman who was sobbing.** This was her only son, and she was a widow, which means she is going to be alone, without any support, without anyone. Her husband died and now her only son is dead. So, Jesus said to her, "*Do not weep!*" He had compassion on her, speaking of the deepest kind of sympathetic emotion that one can experience. Helping widows is a major theme in both the Old and New Testaments, especially under the Covenant as related in Deuteronomy, under the account of Naomi with Ruth.

Luk 7:14 *Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man (Jesus is always precise when He raises the dead), I say to you, arise."*

- **Touching the coffin was, of course, a no-no, as far as the religious Jews were concerned.** To touch a dead body or anything that had touched a dead body would constitute a ceremonial uncleanness. But Jesus touched the coffin.
- **Those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."** This is something interesting. We have three occasions in the scripture where Jesus raised the dead. In every case, Jesus spoke to the dead as though they were alive. To this corpse, *He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."* To the daughter of Jairus He said, *Little lamb, arise.* To Lazarus, He said, *Lazarus, come on out of there.* It is interesting, that He spoke to the dead as though they were alive.

Luk 7:15 *So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.*

- **What a way to break up a funeral procession!** Again, the contrasting crowds. Those that are coming in with Jesus, the many people, the multitude, they meet at the gate of the city, the one crowd coming out, filled with sorrow, and wailing; the other coming in, filled with joy and anticipation. But as a result of the encounter with Jesus, the whole crowd ended up rejoicing and glorifying God!

Luk 7:16 *Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God (always the result of Jesus' miracles), saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us;" and, "God has visited His people."*

- **They glorified God,** Jesus healing the paralytic. (Luk 5:26) *And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"*
- **God has visited His people, Zacharias' Prophecy.** (Luk 1:68) *"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people."*

Luk 7:17 And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

- **It scattered; the rumor went as far south as Judea.** Everybody began to hear about the things that Jesus was doing. Imagine the situation of a grieving widow, and the raising of a dead son!

Messengers from John the Baptist - A Perplexed Prophet:

Luk 7:18 Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things.

Luk 7:19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

- **John had expected that the Messiah would soon set up** the Kingdom he had been announcing. But suddenly John found himself in prison in danger of being put to death. Still the Kingdom had not come. He knew the Old Testament well, but apparently John was now confused.

Luk 7:20 When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'"

- **Now John had earlier said, (Mat 3:11) I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** When John saw Jesus, (**Joh 1:15**) John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' And He turned to His disciples, (**Joh 1:29**) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
- **John has been spending time in Herod's prison** which must have been extremely difficult for him, being an outdoorsman. John's concept of the Messiah was the same as the Jews, thinking that the Messiah was going to lead them in military victories to overthrow the Roman government and by force establish the kingdom of God.
- **When Jesus began to manifest His power,** He did not announce any kind of political platform, He was not rallying an army. He was not speaking of rebellion. John, probably a little tired of sitting in prison, sent his disciples to Jesus to ask, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" He is saying, "Hey, let us get the show on the road. I am tired of sitting in jail. Interestingly enough, Jesus did not give to the disciples of John a direct answer, but with the fulfillment of prophecy! (*Isa 61:1-2*), including (*Isa 26:19; 29:18; 35:5*).

Luk 7:21 And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

Luk 7:22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.

- **He just ministered to the people that were coming.** Healing those that were sick, opening the blind eyes, and just ministering and after an hour or so of ministering, then He answered or responded to the disciples of John. Jesus gave them deeds, not discourse, giving them Scriptural evidence, reminding them of His Messianic mandate.

Luk 7:23 And blessed is he who is not offended (to make indignant or displeased) because of Me."

- **When Jesus began His public ministry, after the baptism by John,** after the temptation in the wilderness, you remember that He came to the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth, they handed to Him the scriptures. Jesus took the scroll of Isaiah and He opened it to (**Isa 61:1-2a**) "The 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; [2] To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.
- **Basically, that is exactly what Jesus is doing! He is fulfilling the prophecy** concerning the Messiah as was written by Isaiah. So just go back and tell John the things that you have seen, the things that you have heard. John knows the scriptures. He will understand that I am indeed the Messiah.

Luk 7:24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

- **John was baptizing down** in the Jordan river, which was filled with reeds on the banks of the river. All of these reeds that were blowing in the wind. Jesus said, Is that why you went down to the wilderness? Just to see these reeds by the Jordan river that are blowing in the wind.

Luk 7:25 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

- **John wore a skin coat. He was rugged.** Men who wear the silks, they are in the kings' court. They are not in the king's prisons.

Luk 7:26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.

Luk 7:27 This is he of whom it is written: 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'

- **Jesus, doubly mentioning, then quoted (Mal 3:1a) Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me.** He is saying of John the Baptist that He is the One that Malachi was speaking of. He is the fulfillment of the prophecy in (Mal 3:1) and on through the third chapter into the fourth chapter. The prophecies of the forerunner of the Messiah.

Luk 7:28 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.'

- **There is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist. He actually saw the Messiah** with his eyes and personally participated in the fulfillment of what they only prophesied. He had the privilege of saying of the Messiah, "He is here!" instead of "He is coming!"
- **But he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. That is quite an acknowledgment by Jesus!** Though John was great, he was not born again under the New Covenant. He lived and died before the completion of Jesus' work at the cross and empty tomb, not enjoying the benefits of the New Covenant.
- **But all believers after the cross are greater still, because they participate** in the full understanding and experience of something John merely foresaw in shadowy form—the actual atoning work of Christ!
- **Our position in Christ is a position that is greater than any of the prophets of the Old Testament** had the privilege of experiencing. This glorious relationship that we have, Christ in you, Christ dwelling in you! Our privileges, our position in Christ exceeds the relationship that the people could have to God in the Old Testament! They were always separated by a veil from God.
- **But in Christ, we have boldness to come to the Father, into the Holy of Holies,** behind the veil! What a glorious privilege is ours as children of God and this relationship we now have through Jesus Christ, Who has removed the veil so **that we have access to the throne of grace where we might find mercy** in our time of need! So, he who is least in the kingdom of heaven **actually enjoys a greater position** than Elijah, Elisha, or the greatest of the prophets, even John the Baptist!
- **"You are greater than he!" Greater than all the prophets! How well do I understand this tremendous statement? That, as a believer, you, me, are greater than all the prophets, including John the Baptist? May we pray to better understand, being more thankful, more grateful to Him! More fruitful!**

Luk 7:29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

- **When Jesus spoke so positively of John, they all sort of consented, Yes.** Because they had all gone out and been baptized by John, recognizing that the Holy Spirit was upon John, and his was a legitimate ministry of God.

Luk 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

- **But this baptism of John, even here there was a controversy concerning it.** When Jesus talks about John and affirms John, the people all say, Yes. But the Pharisees and all, they sort of hang back because they rejected the wisdom and the counsel of God. They were not baptized by John.

Luk 7:31 And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like?"

- **Luke highlights the deep division in the people who listened to Jesus' words,** being divided into two groups. Those who had been baptized and had repented of their sins, showing their sincerity, agreeing with Jesus, acknowledging that God's way was right.
- **In contrast, the Pharisees and legal experts rejected God's purpose for themselves.** They refused to be baptized by John, showing that they did not accept his message of repentance or accept the kingdom. They rejected God's plan of salvation for them.

Luk 7:32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying:

'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.'

- **Jesus, no doubt had observed the children in the marketplaces**, they were playing their various games, let us pretend it is a wedding. *We played the flutes, but you did not dance.* So, let us play funeral, and we will wail and howl, but you did not want to play funeral!

Luk 7:33 *For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.'*

- **John was unusual!** He ate locusts and wild honey, denying himself for religious reasons.

Luk 7:34 *The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'*

Luk 7:35 *But wisdom is justified by all her children."*

- **The wisdom of the Lord's way is not seen intellectually nor logically, but in the transformation of people's lives!** We see the children of the Lord, born-again believers, who were once hooked on drugs, pornography, held captive by materialism. People with broken marriages, families, and lives, who are now in the process of being perfected. God's wisdom is justified in changed lives! Let the Pharisees argue all they want. The undeniable fact is that lives are changed!

A Sinful Woman Forgiven - A Repentant Sinner:

Luk 7:36 *Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat.*

- **Jesus was never one to turn down an invitation for dinner.** Even as He has invited Himself to eat with you. (Rev 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.*
- **The Lord loves that intimacy of just eating together.** There is something special about just eating together and especially in that culture because it was tantamount to becoming one with each other.

Luk 7:37 *And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner (a notorious sinner, probably a prostitute), when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,*

Luk 7:38 *and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.*

- **This event is not to be confused with another case in the gospel of John, chapter 12, where Jesus had gone to dinner** and how that Mary, the sister of Lazarus took this precious ointment and poured it on the feet of Jesus and the whole house was filled with the fragrance and how she also with her tears washed His feet and wiped them with her hair. This is not the same feast. This happened early on in the ministry of Jesus. The other feast was just six days before He was crucified, at the end of the ministry of Jesus. So, they are different occasions but similar kind of things as far as the love and tenderness towards Jesus that was expressed by the women.
- **She stood at His feet behind Him because He was reclining**, as He was facing across the table at the host. He was the guest of honor supposedly, but not much honor was given to Him by the host. "And she began to wash His feet with tears"—so that "with tears" could be the tears that she was shedding at the moment plus the tear bottle—and she did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and then she kissed, smothered his feet with kisses! As Jesus later said, "but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. And she anointed His feet with this perfume from her alabaster flask.

Luk 7:39 *Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."*

- **The Pharisees believed that defilement could be transferred by touching.** If you would touch a person who was a sinner, you would be defiled. Touching a Gentile was defiling. They would wrap their robes tightly around them so that the robes would not swish out and accidentally touch a woman or a Gentile or a sinful person.
- **When the Pharisee saw this woman who had a reputation of a sinner**, no doubt knowing her because he said, *She is a sinner!* When he saw this woman washing the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiping them with her hair, smothering them with kisses, he thought to himself, Jesus cannot be a prophet.

Luk 7:40 *And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."*

- **Jesus was about to deal with the blindness of Simon**, who was blind to the woman, to Jesus, and to himself. Jesus then gave him a little parable.

Luk 7:41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii (a day's wages), and the other fifty.

Luk 7:42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

Luk 7:43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

- Jesus went on to compare the hospitality that Simon had given to Jesus with the woman's graciousness towards Him. He was sort of crude in his reception of Jesus. When you were invited to dinner, upon arrival there would be a servant at the door to wash your feet. The host would then kiss you in greeting, taking a bit of perfume, putting it on your forehead to give a fragrance in the room, that there might be a beautiful fragrant experience.

Luk 7:44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

Luk 7:45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

Luk 7:46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

- You failed in the common courtesies offered to a guest.

Luk 7:47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

- It appears that Jesus is talking about a past action. "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven." Perhaps he has already met her. She knew who He was. She came in gratitude.
- He said, for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little. There are people who are moral, good people. You talk to them about Jesus. They will talk to you about honesty and integrity, being a good citizen in the community. By their estimation they live a pretty good life, not having a real sense of spiritual need. These likely are some of the hardest people to reach.
- Prisons may be the easiest place for evangelism! These fellows all recognize their need. They are looking for help. When they are truly converted, they become real dynamos because they love much. They realize they have been forgiven much! So little love, then much love! One category or the other.
- **"She loved much!" Forgiven much, loved much! Where would I, would you, rate yourself? Much forgiven? Much love? Little forgiven, little love? Great love for the Lord? Is It deeply passionate towards Him? Or is there just a little love? Or are you in between?**
- That does not mean that you have to be a rank sinner to love much. And that you should go out and just really drink of the dregs of sin in order that He might forgive you and you can then love Him a lot. The thing is, we are all sinners!
- None of us can atone for our sin. We are all spiritually bankrupt. Without His forgiveness, we have all sinned enough to condemn ourselves to an eternal destiny apart from God. The beautiful thing is He offers forgiveness! Once we have received that forgiveness, the joy, the blessing, the happiness as David expressed it, (*Psa 32:1*) *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.* So, Jesus said she was forgiven much, thus she loved much!

Luk 7:48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

- That created a stir to those who were there at the meal.

Luk 7:49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

- This is not the first time this happened. As He was teaching in Capernaum, there was the man who was palsied and his friends brought him, letting him down through the roof. The first thing Jesus said to him, "Your sins are forgiven," creating an uproar. Who is He to forgive, only God can forgive sins? Jesus said, What is easier to say, Your sins are forgiven, Arise, talk your bed, and walk? But that you may know that I have power on earth to forgive sins, He said to the man with the palsy, Rise, take your bed and walk. *Your sins are forgiven.* What beautiful words when spoken to us by the Lord!
- Who is this who even forgives sins? Who can forgive sins but God? That was a correct evaluation. Only God can forgive sin, for sin is against God. David when he prayed for forgiveness said, (*Psa 51:4a*) *Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight! (Psa 51:1) Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgressions.* Calling to God for forgiveness because only God can forgive. But Jesus was proving that He was God.

Luk 7:50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

- **That is always true, (Eph 2:8-9)** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- **One of the characteristics of sin is that it leaves your mind in a constant turmoil.** When you are living in sin, there is that consciousness of sin that creates just an unrest in your soul. You know you are doing wrong. You know you should not be doing it! You are miserable because you know you should not be sinning. Yet, the flesh is drawing you to it and so you find yourself being torn by the lust of the flesh and torn by the conviction of the Holy Spirit! You find yourself in this miserable state of just being ripped to pieces!
- **But once you have forsaken the sin and found forgiveness, what peace there is!.** What glorious peace. Jesus said, (Mat 11:28-30) *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.* That is the glorious consequence of being forgiven your sins; that glorious rest and peace, "Go in peace!."
- **Tonight, if you are struggling with sin, if you are in a battle and you know the misery of being torn** by the desires of your flesh and by the tug of the Spirit, you can go in peace tonight. You can resolve that whole issue. You can surrender that to Jesus Christ tonight and He will forgive! (1Jn 1:9) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- **He will cleanse you right now and you can go in peace!**

SUMMARY -

- **How worthy am I, for You my Jesus, to come into my heart? How worthy am I to come to You, Jesus? Just how do I see my level of worthiness? Of unworthiness?** (Luk 7:7)
- **Oh, how that I, that we, with our greater available revelation of God, our being filled with the Holy Spirit, might we have such faith as the centurion! "I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"** (Luk 7:10)
- **"You are greater than he!" Greater than all the prophets! How well do I understand this tremendous statement? That, as a believer, you, me, are greater than all the prophets, including John the Baptist? May we pray to better understand, being more thankful, more grateful to Him! More fruitful!** (Luk 7:28)
- **"She loved much!" Forgiven much, loved much! Where would I, would you, rate yourself? Much forgiven? Much love? Little forgiven, little love? Great love for the Lord? Is It deeply passionate towards Him? Or is there just a little love? Or are you in between?** (Luk 7:47)

CLOSING SONG

THE LORD'S PRAYER- Andrea Bocelli (3:31/3:34)

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study *Luke Chapter 8!*