

The Compassionate Christ

November 22, 2020

Luke 7:1-17

Vol. 10 Num. 47

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



When studying the Gospels, we often lose sight of Jesus' acts of compassion. For some reason, they seem to be overlooked by His teachings and miracles. However, when we see the compassionate Christ in action, they present an occasion for us to observe and learn from His examples.

Someone has defined compassion as “*your pain in my heart.*” ⁽¹⁾ In our current study of Luke's Gospel, **Chapter 7:1-17**, we find Jesus' heart moved by the pain that two individuals were experiencing. The first is a Roman centurion who is concerned about his sick servant. The other is a grieving widow whose son has just died. Although both accounts record miraculous outcomes, they become overshadowed by Jesus' acts of compassion. In these two vignettes, we see Jesus more than a teacher and healer. Instead, we see Christ who vicariously experiences the feelings, thoughts and sorrows of others.

“¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16) ESV

¹ (Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 195). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.)

❶ EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is repeated to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are like or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

Questions from Verses 1-10

8. In *Verse 1*, “*Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people...*” What had Jesus been talking about?

9. In *Verse 3*, a Roman centurion sent some Jewish elders to ask Jesus to heal his servant. Why do you think the centurion didn’t go to Jesus directly?

10. In *Verses 4 and 5*, what reasons do the Jewish elders give why Jesus should heal the centurion’s servant?

11. In *Verse 7*, in what manner did the centurion believe Jesus could heal his servant?

12. In *Verse 8*, the centurion stated he was a man under authority. What authority are Christians under? (Refer to *Matthew 18:15-17*; *Romans 13:1-7* and *Acts 4:16-20*)

13. In *Verse 9*, what kind of faith did Jesus say the centurion had? What do you think Jesus meant?

Questions from Verses 11-17

14. In *Verses 11-12*, do you think it was a coincidence that Jesus just happened to enter Nain during a funeral?

15. In *Verse 13*, what was the determining factor in Jesus' decision to raise the young man?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)

Why does this MATTER to me?

16. What is the main thing you learned from the story of the centurion?

17. What is the main thing you learned from the story of the widow?

18. In both of these stories how did Jesus accomplish His will?

19. When you are confronted with health and/or death issues, where do you find comfort?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

