



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Marvelous Story

Luke 7:1-16

Message #23 of 50 – S801

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Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Marvelous Story

Luke 7:1-16

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 7**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- There are a lot of amazing things in this world
- Just spend some time on Facebook or YouTube and you will see something amazing
- A dog doing something you have never seen
- Or someone, usually a guy, doing something incredibly reckless, but it makes you go, whoa!
- There are things in nature that take our breath away and amaze us
- Have you ever wondered, what amazes God?
- In our text for this morning, we will see that Jesus marveled at something – it amazed Him
- We should take special note of anything that Jesus marvels at
- There is probably a lesson in it for all of us
- Let's pray and then look get into this marvelous story – a story of faith, power, and hope
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Marvelous Story**
- Jesus just finished teaching His disciples what it means to be a true disciple
- This has been a long day for Jesus
- The previous night He had prayed all night long before selecting the Twelve apostles
- Then He came down and taught them
- First thing we will see in this marvelous story is a **Marvelous Faith**
- **Luke 7:1-2**
- A centurion is a Roman military officer who had about 100 men under his command

- The Romans had conquered the land of Israel and Roman troops were stationed throughout the land to keep order
- He was not Jewish, and that is one of the things that makes this account marvelous
- The centurion had a servant who was important to Him – on the verge of dying – hears about Jesus
- **Luke 7:3-5**
- There was something unusual about this centurion – the Jews hated the Romans
- But this centurion had won over the local elders
- They claim the unnamed centurion is ‘deserving’ of this miracle because of what he has done for the Jews
- Jesus is going to go with them, and intends to work this miracle, not because the centurion is deserving or worthy of this grace, but it is because it is God’s will
- No one deserves God’s grace – if you deserved God’s grace, it wouldn’t be grace
- **Luke 7:6-8**
- In the next verse, Jesus is going to marvel at the faith of this centurion
- We can see three elements of his marvelous faith
- First – **Right view of himself**
- ‘I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof’
- This centurion is the most powerful and influential person in that area
- And yet, when he compares himself to Jesus, sees himself as not even worthy of Him coming to his home
- Jesus is going to heal his servant with the supernatural, sovereign, creative power of God
- Faith is the conduit through which that power is going to be dispensed
- Power-filled faith can only be found in someone who has a right view of who they are in relation to Jesus
- Couple with that – Second – **Right view of Jesus**
- ‘I did not even think myself worthy to come to You.’
- We can’t know precisely who the centurion believed Jesus to be, but we can be certain that he believed Jesus was more than just a man
- Third thing – **Right view of what Jesus could do**

- ‘say the word, and my servant will be healed’
- Knew enough about Jesus and the power of God to know that Jesus didn’t need to come there to heal his servant
- The centurion had a need, and he believed only Jesus could do something about it, and so he acted in faith – Jesus noticed
- **Luke 7:9**
- At the beginning of the message I asked the question, what amazes God – the simple answer is – nothing amazes God
- Jesus in His humanity can be amazed
- Interestingly, only twice in the Bible does it say Jesus marveled at something – here and also in Mark 6 – Nazareth – marveled at their unbelief – their lack of faith
- Our faith is important to God
- The centurion had a right view of himself and of Jesus and acted upon what he knew about Jesus
- And the result was a release of healing power
- **Luke 7:10**
- Turn to **John 14**
- We might ask the question – does God still heal people like Jesus did here to the centurion’s servant?
- In John 14, Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father – Jesus calls him to faith
- **John 14:8-11**
- Works = miracles – proved that Jesus was who He said He was
- **John 14:12-14**
- If we go to God in faith, asking Him to do something that will glorify Him, bless others, and grow our faith – we can trust that He hears us
- Faith is the conduit through which the supernatural power of God flows
- The centurion had a marvelous faith – and God rewarded his faith with an amazing miracle
- This marvelous story continues with another miracle – this one happened apart from anyone’s faith – but from the compassion of a loving Savior
- Second part – **A Marvelous Compassion**

- **Luke 7:11-12**

- Luke is very specific – widow = no husband
- Only son = no one left to take care of her
- ‘dead man’ = adult male – verse 14 ‘young man’ younger than Jesus
- Probably in his early twenties
- She had already lost her husband – now her young son
- The death of a child, regardless of how old they are, is unnatural and hard to bear - Carl Jung

It (the death of a child) is a period placed before the end of a sentence.

- I know some of you have experienced the pain of the loss of a child or grandchild
- Some, even before the sentence began through miscarriage
- Jesus understands what you are feeling

- **Luke 7:13**

- Jesus looked at her and her situation and He felt something deep inside Himself
- What He felt drove Him to respond toward her
- Notice, He doesn’t ask her to respond to Him in faith
- ‘Do not weep.’ Not ‘stop being such a cry-baby’
- Jesus is drawing her attention to Himself because He is about to show her compassion
- Christians can sometimes be cruel and suggest that someone should not weep and mourn over the loss of a loved one
- The greater the love we have for someone, the greater the sense of loss when that relationship is interrupted by death
- Jesus had a marvelous compassion for this widow
- There is a great promise from the prophet Jeremiah for all of us

Lamentations 3:22-24

Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, therefore I hope in Him!

- Whatever your burden – give it to Jesus
- Whatever your pain – give it to Jesus
- He is marvelously compassionate
- Our third and final point – **A Marvelous Hope**

- **Luke 7:14-16**

- Usually, during that time, a body was buried within 24 hours of death
- There is a process they would go through to prepare the body for burial involving cleansing the body and anointing it
- He had been dead long enough that there was no hope of him coming back to life
- Jesus spoke, and the man came back to life
- This should remind us, death is not the end
- The man's body had died but his soul lived on somewhere – we'll talk about where once we got to chapter 11
- This gives us a picture of what Christ came to do **1 Corinthians 15:54-55**

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

- Jesus was victorious over death when He died on the cross
- Turn to **1 Thessalonians 4**
- That doesn't mean people weren't going to die, but it does change the way we view death
- Paul is writing to a church to comfort them over the death of some of their loved ones
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**
- 'fallen asleep' – idiom used to describe the death of believers (only)
- They were waiting for the Lord to return, concerned for their dead loved ones
- **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**
- Jesus is coming back to get His church, but He is not coming alone
- All our loved ones who preceded us to heaven will be raised up right before He catches us up to be with Him forever
- Notice in verse 18, Paul tells them to comfort one another with that truth
- Turn to **1 Corinthians 15**
- A day will come when the dead-in-Christ (believers) will be raised from the dead
- Our marvelous hope is the return of Christ for His church – a doctrine we call the Rapture

- Referring to this marvelous hope or blessed hope Paul also said
- **1 Corinthians 15:51a**
- Shall not all sleep – some Christians won't have to die to go to heaven
- **1 Corinthians 15:51b-52**
- Shall be changed = new, immortal bodies designed to live in heaven forever – death swallowed up/defeated
- Listen, unless Jesus comes back really soon, disease, injury, sickness, and death is going to come into everyone's life
- Jesus is not done writing His marvelous story
- Jesus is writing His marvelous story through His people
- His story is written as His people exercise faith – rightly viewing themselves and God through His Word
- His story is written as we take our burdens to Him and help others to carry their heavy burdens
- And through faith allowing themselves to be a conduit of His power out into the world through the working of the Holy Spirit
- All the while looking for His soon coming and comforting one another as we wait
- God is still writing His story in this world about His Son, and you are the pen in His hand
- And I want to leave you with this question, are you letting Him use you to write His story, or are you writing your own story?
- **Pray!**