



Developing Our Faith

#1

Paul J. Bucknell

The Centurion The Widow's Son John the Baptist Two Debtors

Luke 7:1-50

- The faith to ask (7:1-10)
- The faith to heal (7:11-17)
- The faith to repent (7:18-35)
- The faith to confess (7:36-50)

How does a person's faith grow?

Are we suppose to be able to do things through faith too?

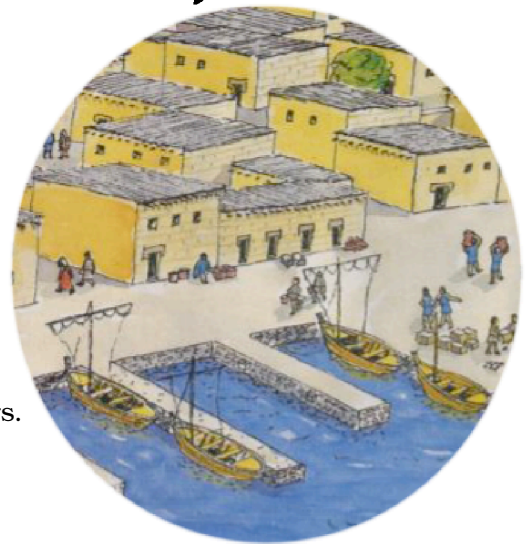
• The Centurion's Faith (Luke 7:1-10)

The faith to ask

† The Place (7:1)

Capernaum was the center place of Christ's ministry. Most of His miracles were done there.

- Where is Capernaum?
- Why did Jesus often go there? Is that unfair to other places?



† The Search (7:2-5)

A **centurion** is a Roman commander in charge of 100 Roman soldiers. He undoubtedly was a Gentile but had a strong affiliation for the Jewish people.

- What was the centurion's need? Anything unusual about this?
- What caused him to get Jesus to help him?
- How did the centurion get Jesus to help him?
- Why were the Jews willing to help this Gentile?

Capernaum

Biblical Archaeological Review (7-8/99)
A second outlet from the Sea of Galille was recently reopened allowing the level of the lake to be restored to levels seen in Christ's time.

† The Faith (7:6-10)

Luke probably included this story not only to show that a respectable Gentile would and could believe in Jesus but to show what great faith he could have.

- Why did the centurion tell Jesus not to come to his house?
- How did Jesus know how strong his faith was?
- What happened as a result of this centurion's faith?

"I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith!" (Luke 7:9)

Application

- * What kind of faith should you have?
- * How can you strengthen your faith?



Developing Our Faith

#2

Paul J. Bucknell

The Centurion The Widow's Son John the Baptist Two Debtors

Luke 7:11-17

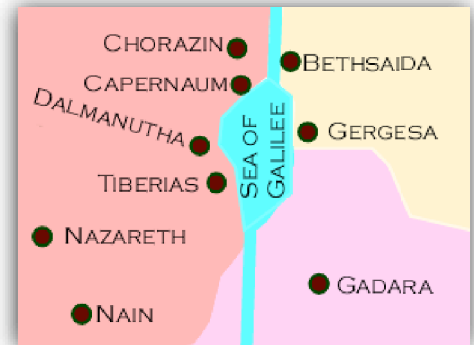
• Jesus & the Widow's Son (Luke 7:11-17)

The faith to heal

† The Place (7:11)

Naim was five miles southeast of Nazareth, Christ's home town.

- Point out Naim on a map.
- Who accompanied Jesus on this trip?



† The Scene (7:12-13)

The crowd came out of the city gate with the dead body of a young man in a coffin.

- Describe the scene as Luke speaks about it.
- How did Jesus respond to this situation in verse 13?
- Why might have He so responded?

† The Miracle of Faith (7:14-17)

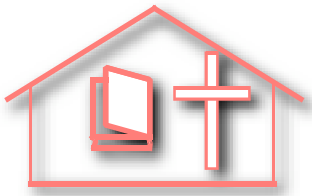
The reason we do things is as important as what we do.

- Jesus touched the coffin. Why was touching the coffin particularly mentioned?
- How did Jesus help the widow?
- Describe the people's responses in 16-17.

"Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God..." (Luke 7:16)

Application

- * Does Jesus still raise people from the dead? Explain?
- * What is the point of this story?
- How does God do miracles through our lives?



Developing Our Faith

Paul J. Bucknell

The Centurion The Widow's Son John the Baptist Two Debtors

Luke 7:18-35

• John the Baptist's Faith (Luke 7:18-35)

The faith to repent

† The Messengers (7:18-21)

John the Baptist was imprisoned. There is no doubt that he heard the reports of what Jesus was doing. Otherwise, he would not have sent his men to Jesus asking what they did.

- What was it that John the Baptist had his disciples ask Jesus?
- Why might have John asked these things, despite the many miracles happening?

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives, And freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,”
Isaiah 61:1-2.
Also Isaiah 35:5-6

† The Answer (7:22-23)

Keep in mind of the things spoken earlier in Luke about John the Baptist. He had a special birth, a remarkable ministry but sudden imprisonment. This will help us understand this passage.

- What is the significance of what Jesus said in 7:22?
- Why might Jesus have added verse 23? *“Blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.”*

† Christ's Comments (7:24-35)

Jesus spoke now to His disciples after John's messengers had left. Jesus' comments greatly differed from what He said to John's disciples.

- What does Jesus tell the crowd? Did they know about John the Baptist?
- In Jesus' explanation, He points out two different responses to John's message. Explain each position and who took these stands.

Positive (7:29)

Negative (7:30-34)

- What does Jesus' closing words, “Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children” mean?

Luke 7:27 is from Malachi 3:1

“Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.” (Luke 7:35)

Application

- * Everyone went to see John. But how would you have responded to John?
- * What kind of faith is emphasized here? Do you have this saving faith?



Developing Our Faith

Paul J. Bucknell

The Centurion The Widow's Son John the Baptist Two Debtors

Luke 7:36-50

● The Two Debtors (Luke 7:36-50)

The faith to confess

† Two people, two approaches (7:36-39)

Pharisees



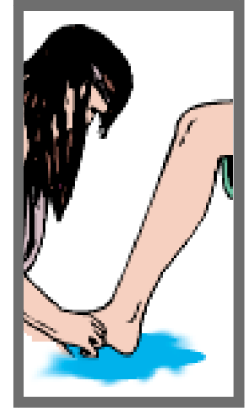
His religion and class prohibited genuine kindness and love.

Proud
righteous
separate
rich
curious
independent
not kind
high class
looked up to

Immoral woman

Her sinfulness and humility made her impervious to the pressures around her. She simply expressed her love.

Immoral
humbled
repentant
sorrowful
kind
low class
looked down upon



† Jesus' question brings illumination (7:40-47)

Jesus cleverly prepared the Pharisees to open the heart to His hard teaching.

- * The story (40-43)
- * The parable (44-47)
- * Summary (48-50)

† Finding true forgiveness (7:48-50)

True repentance before Jesus brings forgiveness. Jesus is Savior.

1. Forgiveness is possible no matter how terribly one has sinned.
2. Forgiveness needs repentance and faith in Jesus. With this he or she finds freedom.
3. Jesus is the Great Savior who brings peace.

"Her sins, which are many, have been forgiven" (Luke 7:48).

Application

- * Who in the above story are you more like?
- * What makes you think so?
- * How did Jesus know about their hearts?