

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 7

Introduction

Following the three-chapter Sermon on the Mount, Jesus descended the mountain and made His way to the city of Capernaum, where He and the disciples set up their ministry headquarters. Capernaum was considered a large city with a population of approximately twenty-five thousand people. In the four Gospels, more miracles would take place in this city than anywhere else.

From Capernaum, Jesus traveled to Nain, where He changed the life of a grieving widow by raising her son from the dead. He passed through the grain fields in the surrounding areas on the Sabbath, plucking the heads of grain to eat with His disciples. Accompanied by the multitudes as He went, the Pharisees among them would accuse Him about the real source of His power and tell Him they wanted to see a sign from Him to prove His authority and authenticity.

Did you know

If you were to do a New Testament search on encounters with centurion soldiers, you would find them portrayed in a very positive way. A centurion was a man whose rank meant commanding a flank of one hundred soldiers whose responsibility was to maintain Roman rule throughout the land. When Jesus died on the cross, it was a Roman centurion who declared: "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54). In Acts 10, we read of a centurion named Cornelius who was a righteous man, devout in faith, and who prayed earnestly to God. An angel of the Lord sent him to Joppa to inquire of Peter who, in turn, preached the Gospel message to this Gentile and his entire household. And it was a centurion named Julius who gave the prisoner Paul the liberty to visit his family and friends and receive care from the believers on his voyage to Rome (Acts 27). Often in Scripture, we find centurions are represented as facilitating God's plan. The example we see before us in this week's lesson is no exception.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

Teaching / Event	Scripture Text	Parallel Passages
Centurion Servant's Servant is	Matthew 8:5–13	Luke 7:1–10
Healed		
Widow of Nain's Son is Raised		Luke 7:11–17
Sinful Woman Anoints Jesus		Luke 7:36–50
Accusations Regarding Jesus'	Matthew 12:22–37	Mark 3:20–30; Luke 11:14–23
Power		
Sign of Jonah	Matthew 12:38–42	Luke 11:29–32
Jesus Describes His True Family	Matthew 12:46–50	Mark 3:31–35; Luke 8:19–21

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: Mark 3:35 NKJV (Memory verse) (Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.

Luke 7:1-10; 36-50; Matthew 12:38-42

Luke 7:1–10 The Centurion's Servant is Healed

1 Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum.

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

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

4 And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving,

5 "for He loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

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.

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

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."

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!"10 And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

Luke 7:36–50 A Sinful Woman Anoints Jesus

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.

37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,

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.

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

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

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?"

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more."

And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

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.

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

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

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."

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

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves,

"Who is this who even forgives sins?"

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

Matthew 12:38–42 The Sign of Jonah

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign,

and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Ninevah will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it,

because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for

she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon;

and indeed a greater than Solomon is here."

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read through the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- <u>Extra</u>: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Luke 7:1–10 The Centurion's Servant is Healed

What does it say? (Facts from passage)	What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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Matthew 7:36–50 A Sinful Woman Anoints Jesus

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation *always* seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. *Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.*

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

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$Behold \ \& \ Be \ Transformed$

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

 $Pause\ldots$. What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

 $Ponder\ldots \text{How will you put it into practice?}$

 $Pray\ldots$. Write out your prayer and be specific.

Notes

