

Journey with Jesus

STUDY 5 Luke 7:1-50 Jesus' authority and compassion raises the biggest question

As a community we want to draw near to Jesus Christ, as we seek spiritual renewal together from God. We want to be with Jesus, become like him and share his news with others. We are inviting everyone to join in!

Jesus continues to proclaim the good news that God's kingdom is entering the world by his power as God's anointed King (see 4:17-21, 43). In this section the authority and power Jesus shows in both Capernaum and Nain prompts John the Baptist to ask the biggest question of all about who Jesus really is.

v. 1-7 In the town of Capernaum, Jesus is met with a request to heal a centurion's servant.

Why do the Jewish leaders think the centurion is 'worthy' for Jesus to grant this?

Why does the Centurion think he is not worthy of Jesus entering his house?

v. 8-10 ***What makes the Centurion's faith so 'great' in Israel?***

v. 11-17 Jesus journeys on to the town of Nain. On the way he is met by a funeral procession near the gate of the town.

What stands out to the crowds about the way Jesus shows both compassion and authority in this situation?

v. 18-23 John's disciples hear the report about Jesus that's spreading throughout the region. Luke repeats his question for emphasis (19-20), it's one of the most important questions everyone needs to come to terms with.

What does John mean by 'the one who is to come'? (see Luke 4:16-21). What evidence does Jesus point towards to help them answer the question?

The word 'stumble' can mean to 'take offence' or 'reject'. ***Why do people reject Jesus' kingly power and compassion, in today's world?***

v. 24-35 ***What challenge does Jesus give those who rejected him, whilst he was on earth?***

What promise does Jesus give anyone who enters his kingdom? (28)

v. 36-50 ***What does Simon the Pharisee need to understand that the woman with the alabaster jar of perfume already knew?***

Discuss ***How does this teaching apply to our own lives and mission as a church? For example: Is there anything we 'stumble over' about Jesus? Do we know the woman knew who anointed Jesus' feet?***

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Do you find anything especially challenging about how Jesus teaches us to live?