CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 7 —

Faith, Compassion, and Forgiveness

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 7 shows faith, compassion, and forgiveness.

Jesus has just finished teaching the way of the kingdom.

Now He shows that kingdom in action.

A Roman officer shows faith so great that Jesus is amazed.

A grieving widow receives her only son back from the dead.

John the Baptist, sitting in prison, sends a question: Are You the One?

Jesus answers with His works and then honors John before the crowd.

Finally, at a Pharisee's dinner, a sinful woman weeps at Jesus' feet, and He declares her forgiven.

In each story, Jesus reaches people others might overlook or reject.

A Gentile soldier.

A poor widow.

A doubting prophet.

A woman with a sinful past.

The chapter moves through five movements:

- The Faith of the Centurion (verses 1–10).
- Jesus Raises the Widow's Son (verses 11–17).
- John the Baptist's Question (verses 18–23).
- Jesus Honors John the Baptist (verses 24–35).
- The Sinful Woman Forgiven (verses 36–50).

The central truth of Luke 7 is:

Jesus responds to humble faith with power, to sorrow with compassion, to doubt with evidence, and to repentant sinners with forgiveness that produces great love.

I. HE ENTERED CAPERNAUM

Luke 7:1 — After Speaking to the People

“After Jesus had finished speaking to the people, He entered Capernaum.”

“After Jesus had finished speaking.”

The Sermon on the Plain was complete.

“He entered Capernaum.”

His home base by the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus had taught the way of the kingdom.

Now He would show it in action.

Cross References

Matthew 8:5

When Jesus went into Capernaum, a Roman army officer came to Him, asking for help.

Mark 1:21

They went into Capernaum, and on the Sabbath He went into the synagogue and taught.

Matthew 7:28

When Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed at His teaching.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' words and works go together.

Key Truth

What Jesus taught, He also lived.

II. A VALUED SERVANT

Luke 7:2 — Sick and Near Death

“A centurion's servant, whom he valued greatly, was sick and near death.”

“A centurion.”

A Roman officer over about one hundred soldiers.

A Gentile.

“A centurion's servant, whom he valued greatly.”

Many masters saw servants as property.

This man truly cared for his servant.

“Was sick and near death.”

Time was running out.

Cross References

Matthew 8:6

> Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed and suffering terribly.

John 4:47

> When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Him and begged Him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

Matthew 8:13

> Jesus told the officer, “You may go. What you trusted Me to do will happen.” At that same moment the servant became well.

Spiritual Principle

Love for others moves us to seek Jesus for them.

Key Truth

The centurion's power could not save his servant, so he turned to Jesus.

III. HE SENT JEWISH ELDERS

Luke 7:3 — Asking Jesus to Come

“When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to ask Him to come and heal his servant.”

“When the centurion heard about Jesus.”

News of Jesus had reached him.

“He sent some Jewish elders.”

He did not presume to come himself.

He knew he was a Gentile.

He asked respected Jewish leaders to speak for him.

“To ask Him to come and heal his servant.”

He believed Jesus could heal.

Cross References

Matthew 8:5

> A centurion came and pleaded with Jesus.

Acts 10:2

> He and everyone in his home honored and worshiped God. He gave a great deal to help the poor and prayed to God all the time.

1 Kings 8:41

> When a foreigner who is not from Your people Israel comes from a far land because of Your name,

Spiritual Principle

Humility approaches Jesus with respect.

Key Truth

The centurion was a powerful man who acted humbly.

IV. THIS MAN DESERVES YOUR HELP

Luke 7:4 — The Elders Pleaded

“They pleaded earnestly, “This man deserves Your help,”

“They pleaded earnestly.”

The Jewish elders spoke warmly of a Roman officer.

That was unusual.

“This man deserves Your help.”

They thought his good deeds made him worthy.

But as we will see, the centurion himself did not think so.

Cross References

Acts 10:22

> They said, “Cornelius the officer sent us. He is a good man who worships God, and all the Jewish people respect him.”

Hebrews 6:10

> God is fair. He will not forget the work you did and the love you showed for Him by helping His people.

Matthew 8:5

> The centurion came, asking Jesus for help.

Spiritual Principle

God sees and remembers acts of love.

Key Truth

Others said he was worthy; he said he was not.

V. HE LOVES OUR NATION

Luke 7:5 — He Built Us a Synagogue

“for he loves our nation and has built us a synagogue.””

“He loves our nation.”

A Roman who loved the Jewish people.

“And has built us a synagogue.”

He used his wealth to help them worship God.

He was probably a Gentile who respected Israel's God.

Cross References

Acts 10:2

> He was a religious man who honored God, together with everyone in his household, and he gave freely to the poor.

Isaiah 56:7

> I will lead them to My holy hill and fill them with gladness in the house where people pray to Me. My temple will be known as a place of prayer for people of every nation.

John 4:22

> You worship without really knowing God. We know the One we worship, since God's rescue comes through the Jewish people.

Spiritual Principle

God welcomes people from every nation who seek Him.

Key Truth

God's house is meant to be a house of prayer for all peoples.

VI. I AM NOT WORTHY

Luke 7:6 — Do Not Trouble Yourself

“So Jesus went with them. When He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say, “Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy to have You come under my roof.”

“So Jesus went with them.”

Jesus was willing to go to a Gentile's house.

“The centurion sent friends.”

A second message.

“Lord, do not trouble Yourself.”

“For I am not worthy to have You come under my roof.”

The elders said, “He deserves.”

The centurion said, “I am not worthy.”

He may also have known that a Jewish teacher entering a Gentile home could be a problem for Him.

Cross References

Matthew 8:8

> The officer answered, “Lord, I am not good enough for You to come into my house. Just give the command, and my servant will be healed.”

Genesis 18:3

> Abraham said, “My lord, if you are pleased with me, please do not pass by your servant.”

Psalm 107:20

> He gave a command and made them well, saving them from death.

Spiritual Principle

Humility recognizes its unworthiness before Jesus.

Key Truth

The one who felt least worthy received the greatest praise.

VII. JUST SAY THE WORD

Luke 7:7 — My Servant Will Be Healed

“That is why I did not come to You personally. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.”

“I did not come to You personally.”

Humility again.

“But just say the word.”

He did not need Jesus to come.

He did not need a touch.

“And my servant will be healed.”

He believed Jesus' word alone had the power.

Distance was no problem for Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 8:8

> Just speak, and my servant will be well.

Psalm 107:20

> He sent out His command, and they were healed.

Matthew 8:13

> Jesus said, “Go. Let it be done as you have believed.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' word is enough.

Key Truth

Great faith trusts Jesus' word without needing to see.

VIII. A MAN UNDER AUTHORITY

Luke 7:8 — Go, Come, Do This

“For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.””

“I also am a man under authority.”

He obeyed those above him.

“With soldiers under me.”

And others obeyed him.

“I tell one, ‘Go,’ and he goes.”

He understood how authority works.

Commands are carried out without the commander being present.

He saw that Jesus had authority over sickness the same way.

Cross References

Matthew 8:9

> I am a man under authority myself, and I have soldiers under me. I tell one to go, and he goes.

John 5:8

> Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”

Matthew 28:18

> Jesus came near and told them, “Every power in heaven and on earth has been handed over to Me.”

Spiritual Principle

Faith recognizes Jesus' authority.

Key Truth

The centurion understood that sickness must obey Jesus' command.

IX. HE WAS AMAZED

Luke 7:9 — Such Great Faith

“When Jesus heard this, He was amazed. Turning to the crowd following Him, He said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.””

“He was amazed.”

Only twice in the Gospels is Jesus said to be amazed.

Once at this man's faith.

Once at the unbelief in His hometown.

“I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”

A Gentile soldier showed greater faith than many who had the Scriptures.

Cross References

Matthew 8:10

> Jesus was astonished when He heard this. He told the people following Him, “Listen, I have not met anyone in Israel who trusts Me this much.”

Matthew 15:28

> Jesus told her, “Dear woman, your faith is strong! What you want will be done.” Her daughter was made well that same hour.

Mark 6:6

> He was astonished that they would not believe.

Spiritual Principle

Great faith pleases Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus was amazed by humble faith that trusted His word.

X. THE SERVANT WELL

Luke 7:10 — When They Returned

“When the messengers returned to the house, they found the servant well.”

Jesus never went to the house.

He never saw the servant.

He never spoke a word to the sickness.

Yet the servant was healed.

Faith was rewarded.

Cross References

Matthew 8:13

> The servant was healed at that very hour.

John 4:50

Jesus said, “Go. Your son will live.” The man believed what Jesus said and went home.

Mark 7:30

She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' power is not limited by distance.

Key Truth

Faith in Jesus' word is never disappointed.

XI. A TOWN CALLED NAIN

Luke 7:11 — A Large Crowd

“The next day, Jesus went to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd went with Him.”

“A town called Nain.”

A small village southwest of the Sea of Galilee.

Not far from Shunem, where Elisha raised a widow's son long before.

“His disciples and a large crowd went with Him.”

A crowd full of life was coming toward the town.

Cross References

1 Kings 17:10

So Elijah went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks.

2 Kings 4:8

One day Elisha went to Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she urged him to stay for a meal.

John 11:17

> When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus goes where people are hurting.

Key Truth

Jesus' path led Him straight to someone in deep sorrow.

XII. THE ONLY SON OF A WIDOW

Luke 7:12 — A Funeral Procession

“As He approached the town gate, a dead man was being carried out—the only son of his widowed mother. A large crowd from the town was with her.”

“A dead man was being carried out.”

A funeral procession.

Two crowds met at the gate.

One following the Lord of life.

One following death.

“The only son of his widowed mother.”

She had already lost her husband.

Now she lost her only son.

In that culture, a widow without a son often had no one to provide for her.

She faced grief, loneliness, and poverty.

Cross References

1 Kings 17:17

> Some time later, the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. He got worse and worse until he stopped breathing.

2 Kings 4:20

> The servant carried him to his mother. The boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died.

John 11:14

> So Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus sees the depth of human grief.

Key Truth

The Lord of life met death at the town gate.

XIII. HIS HEART WENT OUT TO HER

Luke 7:13 — Do Not Weep

“When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her, and He said, “Do not weep.””

“When the Lord saw her.”

This is one of the first places where Luke himself calls Jesus “the Lord.”

“His heart went out to her.”

Deep compassion.

Jesus felt her pain.

“Do not weep.”

She did not ask for help.

She did not show faith.

Jesus acted out of pure compassion.

Cross References

1 Kings 17:18

> She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?”

John 11:33

> Jesus saw her crying, and the people who came with her crying as well, and His spirit was stirred and deeply troubled.

Isaiah 25:8

> He will destroy death for all time. The Lord God will dry the tears from everyone's eyes.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is moved with compassion for those who grieve.

Key Truth

Jesus' compassion reached her before she asked.

XIV. YOUNG MAN, ARISE!

Luke 7:14 — He Touched the Bier

“He went up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. Then He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise!””

“He went up and touched the bier.”

The open stretcher carrying the body.

Touching it would make a person ritually unclean.

But Jesus' touch brings life, not uncleanness.

“And the bearers stood still.”

The funeral stopped.

“Young man, I say to you, arise!”

Jesus spoke to a dead man as if he could hear.

And he could.

Cross References

2 Kings 4:34

> Elisha lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched out on him, the boy's body grew warm.

Mark 5:41

> Holding the child's hand, He said, “Talitha koum!” This means, “Little girl, I am telling you to stand up!”

John 11:43

> After He said this, Jesus shouted loudly, “Lazarus, come out!”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus has authority over death.

Key Truth

Elijah and Elisha prayed and struggled; Jesus simply spoke.

XV. HE SAT UP AND BEGAN TO SPEAK

Luke 7:15 — Given Back to His Mother

“The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.”

“The dead man sat up.”

Life returned.

“And began to speak.”

Proof that he was truly alive.

“And Jesus gave him back to his mother.”

A beautiful detail.

The miracle was for her.

Her son, her future, and her hope were restored.

Cross References

1 Kings 17:23

> Elijah carried the boy down from the upstairs room and gave him to his mother. He said, “Look, your son is alive!”

2 Kings 4:36

> Elisha called Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite woman.” When she came, he said, “Pick up your son.”

Acts 20:12

> They took the young man home alive, and everyone was greatly comforted.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus restores what death has taken.

Key Truth

Jesus gave the widow back her son and her future.

XVI. GOD HAS VISITED HIS PEOPLE

Luke 7:16 — A Great Prophet

“Everyone was filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has arisen among us,” they said. “God has visited His people.””

“Everyone was filled with awe and praised God.”

“A great prophet has arisen among us.”

They remembered Elijah and Elisha.

Jesus was even greater.

“God has visited His people.”

Truer than they knew.

God Himself had come in Jesus.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 18:15

> The Lord your God will send you a prophet like me, one of your own people. Pay attention to what he says.

Luke 1:68

> Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to help His people and has set them free.

John 6:14

> The people who saw this miracle began saying, “He must be the Prophet we were told would come into the world!”

Spiritual Principle

In Jesus, God has come to His people.

Key Truth

The crowd said more than they understood: God had truly visited them.

XVII. THE NEWS SPREAD

Luke 7:17 — Throughout Judea

“This news spread throughout Judea and the surrounding region.”

A dead man raised to life.

News like that could not stay in one village.

And it would soon reach a prison cell where John the Baptist waited.

Cross References

Matthew 9:26

> News about this spread through all that region.

Luke 4:14

> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread throughout the countryside.

Mark 1:28

The news about Him quickly spread everywhere.

Spiritual Principle

The works of Jesus are meant to be told.

Key Truth

Good news travels.

XVIII. JOHN'S DISCIPLES TOLD HIM

Luke 7:18 — All These Things

“John's disciples told him about all these things.”

John was in prison.

Herod had locked him up.

His disciples brought him news of what Jesus was doing.

Healings.

A dead man raised.

But Jesus was not doing what John may have expected.

Cross References

Matthew 11:2

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent his followers to Him.

John 3:25

An argument developed between some of John's followers and a Jewish man about washing ceremonies.

Luke 5:33

They said to Him, “John's followers often fast and pray.”

Spiritual Principle

God's servants can struggle in hard places.

Key Truth

John heard good news while sitting in a dark prison.

XIX. ARE YOU THE ONE?

Luke 7:19 — Should We Look for Another?

“John called two of them and sent them to Jesus to ask, “Are You the one who is to come, or should we look for another?””

“Are You the one who is to come?”

John had boldly announced Jesus.

Now he was asking.

John had preached about judgment and the winnowing fork.

Perhaps he wondered why Jesus was not bringing judgment yet.

Perhaps prison made him wonder.

“Or should we look for another?”

Honest doubt.

John did the right thing with his doubt.

He brought it to Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 11:3

> Are You the One who was to come, or should we wait for someone else?

Psalm 118:26

> God bless the One who comes in the Lord's name.

Daniel 9:25

> Know and understand this: from the time the command goes out to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes.

Spiritual Principle

Even strong believers can have doubts.

Key Truth

Bring your doubts to Jesus.

XX. JOHN THE BAPTIST SENT US

Luke 7:20 — The Question Delivered

“When they came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to ask, ‘Are You the one who is to come, or should we look for another?’””

The messengers repeated the question exactly.

They did not soften it.

Jesus was not offended by an honest question.

He welcomed it.

Cross References

Matthew 11:2

> John sent his followers to ask Jesus a question.

John 1:19

> The Jewish leaders sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John, “Who are you?”

John 1:29

> The following day John saw Jesus walking toward him and said, “There is God's Lamb, the One who removes the world's sin!”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is patient with honest questions.

Key Truth

The man who once said, “Look, the Lamb of God,” now asked, “Are You the One?”

XXI. AT THAT VERY TIME

Luke 7:21 — Healing and Sight

“At that very time, Jesus healed many of their diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind.”

“At that very time.”

Jesus did not answer with words first.

He answered with works.

“Healed many… and gave sight to many who were blind.”

The messengers saw it with their own eyes.

Cross References

Isaiah 35:5

> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will hear.

Matthew 11:5

> The blind see again, the lame walk, those with skin diseases are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor hear good news.

Acts 10:38

> He went around doing good and healing all who were troubled by the devil, because God was with Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' works prove who He is.

Key Truth

Jesus let the evidence speak.

XXII. GO BACK AND TELL JOHN

Luke 7:22 — What You Have Seen and Heard

“He replied, “Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor hear the good news.”

“Tell John what you have seen and heard.”

Eyewitness evidence.

“The blind see, the lame walk… the dead are raised.”

These were the signs Isaiah said the Messiah would bring.

“And the poor hear the good news.”

The very words of Isaiah 61, which Jesus read in Nazareth.

John knew these Scriptures.

He would understand.

Cross References

Isaiah 61:1

> The Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor.

Isaiah 35:5

> The blind will see and the deaf will hear.

Matthew 11:5

> Blind people see, lame people walk, lepers are made clean, deaf people hear, dead people live again, and the good news is told to the poor.

Spiritual Principle

Scripture and evidence together strengthen faith.

Key Truth

Jesus answered John's doubt with Isaiah's promises fulfilled.

XXIII. NOT OFFENDED

Luke 7:23 — Blessed

“Blessed is the one who is not offended because of Me.””

“Blessed.”

A gentle encouragement for John.

“Who is not offended because of Me.”

Do not stumble because Jesus does not act the way you expect.

His ways are higher.

His timing is perfect.

Keep trusting Him even when you do not understand.

Cross References

Matthew 11:6

> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble because of Me.

1 Corinthians 1:23

> We tell people about Christ who died on the cross. Many Jewish people find this message offensive, and many others think it is foolish.

Isaiah 8:14

> He will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.

Spiritual Principle

Blessed are those who trust Jesus when He does not meet their expectations.

Application

Where has Jesus not done what you expected? Will you keep trusting Him?

XXIV. A REED SWAYED BY THE WIND?

Luke 7:24 — What Did You Go Out to See?

“After John's messengers left, Jesus spoke to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?”

“After John's messengers left.”

Jesus did not criticize John in front of his messengers.

He waited, then praised him.

“A reed swayed by the wind?”

Reeds grew along the Jordan.

They bent with every breeze.

John was not like that.

He stood firm, even before Herod.

Cross References

Matthew 11:7

> As John's followers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed blown by the wind?”

1 Kings 14:15

> The Lord will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed shaking in the water.

Ephesians 4:14

> Then we will not be like little children, pushed this way and that by every new idea people teach.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful servants stand firm.

Key Truth

Jesus defended John even after John doubted.

XXV. FINE CLOTHES?

Luke 7:25 — Those in Palaces

“If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes live in palaces.”

“A man dressed in fine clothes?”

John wore camel's hair.

“Those who wear fine clothes live in palaces.”

People like Herod.

John was in Herod's prison, not his palace.

He chose faithfulness over comfort.

Cross References

Matthew 11:8

> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? People who wear soft clothes live in kings' palaces.

Zechariah 13:4

> On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision. He will not put on a prophet's hairy cloak to deceive people.

Matthew 3:4

> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness often means giving up comfort.

Key Truth

John chose truth over luxury.

XXVI. MORE THAN A PROPHET

Luke 7:26 — A Prophet? Yes

“But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, and more than a prophet.”

“A prophet?”

Yes.

“And more than a prophet.”

Other prophets spoke about the Messiah.

John pointed directly to Him.

He was the one who introduced the King.

Cross References

Matthew 11:9

> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, and I tell you he is more than a prophet.

Matthew 14:5

> Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet.

Luke 1:76

> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High.

Spiritual Principle

God honors those who point to Christ.

Key Truth

John's greatness was that he prepared the way for Jesus.

XXVII. MY MESSENGER

Luke 7:27 — Preparing the Way

“This is the one about whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.’”

Jesus quoted Malachi.

John was the messenger promised long ago.

His coming was foretold in Scripture.

He was part of God's plan.

Cross References

Malachi 3:1

> See, I am sending My messenger to clear the way ahead of Me.

Matthew 11:10

> This is the one about whom the Scriptures say, “I will send My messenger ahead of You to get Your road ready.”

Mark 1:2

> It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your road.”

Spiritual Principle

God's servants fulfill roles He planned long ago.

Key Truth

John's life was written in Scripture before he was born.

XXVIII. NO ONE GREATER

Luke 7:28 — The Least in the Kingdom

“I tell you, among those born of women there is no greater prophet than John, but the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.””

“There is no greater prophet than John.”

The highest praise Jesus gave any person.

“But the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Not greater in character.

Greater in privilege.

John stood at the doorway of the new age.

Believers after the cross and resurrection know the full story of salvation and have the Spirit living in them.

Cross References

Matthew 11:11

> I tell you the truth, no one born of a woman is greater than John the Baptist. Yet the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.

Matthew 5:19

> Whoever obeys and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4

> Whoever makes himself humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Believers today have great privileges in Christ.

Key Truth

The humblest believer shares blessings John only saw from a distance.

XXIX. EVEN THE TAX COLLECTORS

Luke 7:29 — Acknowledging God's Justice

“All the people, even the tax collectors, acknowledged God's justice by being baptized with John's baptism.”

“All the people, even the tax collectors.”

Ordinary people and notorious sinners.

“Acknowledged God's justice.”

They agreed with God that they were sinners who needed to repent.

“By being baptized with John's baptism.”

They humbled themselves.

Cross References

Matthew 21:32

> John came showing you the right way to live, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Luke 3:12

> Tax collectors also came to be baptized.

Mark 1:5

> People from all over Judea and Jerusalem went out to him. They confessed their sins and were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Spiritual Principle

Humility agrees with God about our sin.

Key Truth

The humble accepted God's way; the proud did not.

XXX. THEY REJECTED GOD'S PURPOSE

Luke 7:30 — Refusing John's Baptism

“But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, refusing John's baptism.”

“The Pharisees and experts in the law.”

The religious experts.

“Rejected God's purpose for themselves.”

God had a good plan for them.

They refused it.

“Refusing John's baptism.”

They did not think they needed to repent.

The most religious people can miss God's purpose through pride.

Cross References

Matthew 3:7

> When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he warned them sharply.

Matthew 21:25

> Where did John's baptism come from? Was it from heaven or from people?

John 1:19

> The leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to question John.

Spiritual Principle

Pride can make us refuse God's good plan.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to know much about God and still reject His purpose.

XXXI. TO WHAT CAN I COMPARE THEM?

Luke 7:31 — This Generation

“Jesus went on, “To what can I compare the people of this generation?”

Jesus was about to describe the people who rejected both John and Himself.

He used a picture from children's play.

Cross References

Matthew 11:16

What can I say about the people of this time? What are they like?

Mark 4:30

How can I show you what God's kingdom is like? What story can I use to explain it?

Luke 13:18

Jesus said, “What is God's kingdom like? What can I compare it to?”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus uses everyday pictures to reveal spiritual truth.

Key Truth

Jesus was about to expose a stubborn generation.

XXXII. CHILDREN IN THE MARKETPLACE

Luke 7:32 — We Played the Flute

“They are like children sitting in the marketplace calling to one another: ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’”

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance.”

Children played wedding games.

“We sang a dirge, and you did not weep.”

And funeral games.

Some children would not join either game.

Nothing pleased them.

That generation was like stubborn children who refuse every invitation.

Cross References

Matthew 11:17

We played music for you, but you did not dance. We sang a sad song, but you did not cry.

Ecclesiastes 3:4

There is a time to cry and a time to laugh, a time to be sad and a time to dance.

Jeremiah 9:17

Think about this! Call for the women who sing sad songs at funerals.

Spiritual Principle

A stubborn heart finds fault with every messenger.

Spiritual Warning

Be careful not to reject God's call because it does not suit you.

XXXIII. HE HAS A DEMON

Luke 7:33 — John's Way

“For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’”

“John… came neither eating bread nor drinking wine.”

John lived strictly in the wilderness.

“You say, ‘He has a demon.’”

They said he was too strict.

They called him crazy.

Cross References

Matthew 11:18

John came and did not eat or drink like others, and people say, “He has a demon.”

Matthew 3:4

His food was locusts and wild honey.

Mark 1:6

John wore clothes made of camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey.

Spiritual Principle

Those who do not want God's message will criticize the messenger.

Key Truth

They rejected John for being too strict.

XXXIV. A FRIEND OF SINNERS

Luke 7:34 — Jesus' Way

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’”

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking.”

Jesus went to meals and celebrations.

“Here is a glutton and a drunkard.”

A false accusation.

“A friend of tax collectors and sinners.”

Meant as an insult.

But it is one of the most beautiful titles Jesus ever received.

He is the friend of sinners.

Cross References

Matthew 11:19

> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and people say, “Look at Him! He eats too much and drinks too much wine, and He is a friend of tax collectors and sinners.”

Matthew 9:11

> Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?

Luke 15:2

> This man welcomes sinners and even eats with them.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is the friend of sinners.

Key Truth

The critics' insult is the sinner's hope.

XXXV. WISDOM IS PROVED RIGHT

Luke 7:35 — By All Her Children

“But wisdom is proved right by all her children.””

“Wisdom is proved right.”

God's wise plan will be shown to be right.

“By all her children.”

Those who accept God's wisdom.

The tax collectors and sinners who repented.

Their changed lives prove God's way is right.

Cross References

Proverbs 8:11

> Wisdom is worth more than rubies. Nothing you could want is equal to it.

1 Corinthians 1:24

> But for everyone God has called, Jew or Greek, Christ is God's power and God's wisdom.

James 3:17

> Wisdom from God is clean above all else. It also loves peace, is kind, is willing to be taught, is full of mercy and good deeds, treats everyone fairly, and has no pretending in it.

Spiritual Principle

Changed lives prove the wisdom of God's way.

Key Truth

The fruit of God's wisdom is seen in those who receive it.

XXXVI. AT THE PHARISEE'S TABLE

Luke 7:36 — An Invitation to Dinner

“One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. Jesus entered the house and reclined at the table.”

“One of the Pharisees invited Jesus.”

Jesus ate with tax collectors.

He also ate with Pharisees.

He welcomed everyone.

“Reclined at the table.”

Guests lay on their sides on low couches, with their feet stretched away from the table.

This explains how the woman could reach His feet.

Cross References

Matthew 26:6

> While Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, who had a skin disease,

Mark 14:3

> Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon. As He was eating, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume.

Luke 11:37

> After Jesus finished speaking, a Pharisee invited Him to eat with him. So Jesus went in and sat at the table.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus reaches out to religious people as well as sinners.

Key Truth

Jesus accepted every invitation that gave Him a chance to reach hearts.

XXXVII. A WOMAN WHO HAD LIVED A SINFUL LIFE

Luke 7:37 — An Alabaster Jar

“A woman in the city who had lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was dining at the Pharisee's house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume,”

“A woman in the city who had lived a sinful life.”

Everyone in town knew her reputation.

Luke does not tell us her name or the details of her sin.

She is not named, and nothing in the text identifies her with Mary Magdalene or Mary of Bethany.

“Learned that Jesus was dining at the Pharisee's house.”

She came uninvited.

She knew she would not be welcome.

“She brought an alabaster jar of perfume.”

Something precious.

She came to give.

Cross References

Mark 14:3

> A woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly perfume made of pure nard.

John 12:3

> Mary took a pint of expensive perfume made from pure nard and poured it on Jesus' feet, then wiped His feet with her hair.

Luke 8:2

> Some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses were with Him, including Mary Magdalene.

Spiritual Principle

No past is too sinful to come to Jesus.

Key Truth

She came to Jesus despite her shame.

XXXVIII. TEARS ON HIS FEET

Luke 7:38 — Weeping, Wiping, Kissing, Pouring

“and as she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured perfume on them.”

“Weeping.”

Tears of sorrow over her sin.

Perhaps tears of gratitude for forgiveness she had already received.

“She wiped them with her hair.”

A woman's hair was her glory.

Letting it down in public was shocking.

She did not care what anyone thought.

“Kissed them, and poured perfume on them.”

Humble, extravagant love.

Cross References

John 12:3

> She poured the perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair, and the whole house was filled with the smell.

Mark 14:3

She broke the jar and poured the perfume on His head.

John 13:5

Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash His followers' feet, drying them with the towel tied around Him.

Spiritual Principle

True repentance expresses itself in humble, extravagant love.

Key Truth

She gave Jesus her tears, her dignity, and her treasure.

XXXIX. IF THIS MAN WERE A PROPHET

Luke 7:39 — What Kind of Woman She Is

"When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he thought to himself, "If this man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him—what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.""

"He thought to himself."

He did not say it out loud.

"If this man were a prophet."

He doubted Jesus.

"He would know… that she is a sinner."

He saw her only as a sinner.

He thought a holy man would push her away.

He did not see his own need.

Cross References

Matthew 9:11

Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?

Luke 15:2

> The Pharisees grumbled, “This man welcomes sinners.”

John 4:19

> The woman said, “Sir, I can see that You are a prophet.”

Spiritual Principle

Self-righteousness looks down on others.

Spiritual Warning

Judging others' sin can blind us to our own.

XL. SIMON, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

Luke 7:40 — Say It, Teacher

“Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” “Say it, Teacher,” he replied.”

“Jesus answered him.”

Simon had not spoken.

But Jesus answered his thoughts.

Jesus was a prophet after all.

He knew the woman, and He knew Simon's heart.

“Simon, I have something to say to you.”

Jesus spoke kindly, by name.

Cross References

Matthew 18:12

> What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one wanders away, won't he leave the ninety-nine and go look for the one?

Luke 15:3

> Then Jesus told them this story.

2 Samuel 12:1

> The Lord sent Nathan to David. Nathan came to him and said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and one poor.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus knows our hidden thoughts.

Key Truth

Jesus answered the question Simon never asked out loud.

XLI. TWO DEBTORS

Luke 7:41 — Five Hundred and Fifty

““Two people owed money to a certain lender. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.”

“Two people owed money.”

Sin is like a debt we owe God.

“Five hundred denarii.”

A denarius was about a day's wage.

Five hundred was nearly two years' pay.

“And the other fifty.”

About two months' pay.

Both owed something.

Cross References

Matthew 18:24

> As he began settling accounts, a servant who owed him millions of dollars was brought to him.

Matthew 18:28

> That servant went out and found another servant who owed him a few dollars.

Colossians 2:14

> He canceled the record of debt that stood against us, with its demands. He set it aside, nailing it to the cross.

Spiritual Principle

Every person owes a debt of sin to God.

Key Truth

Some owe more, but all owe something.

XLII. HE FORGAVE BOTH

Luke 7:42 — Which Will Love Him More?

“Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave both debts. Now, which of them will love him more?””

“Neither of them had the money to pay him back.”

This is the key.

Neither could pay.

Simon could not pay his debt any more than the woman could pay hers.

“So he forgave both debts.”

Grace.

Free forgiveness.

“Which of them will love him more?”

Cross References

Matthew 18:27

> The master felt sorry for him, so he released him and canceled the debt.

Colossians 2:14

> God wiped out the charges against us and took them away by nailing them to the cross.

1 John 4:19

Our love comes from His love, because He loved us before we ever loved Him.

Spiritual Principle

None of us can pay our debt of sin; all of us need grace.

Key Truth

Forgiveness is a free gift to those who cannot pay.

XLIII. YOU HAVE JUDGED CORRECTLY

Luke 7:43 — The Bigger Debt

“Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.”

“I suppose.”

Simon answered carefully.

He may have sensed where this was going.

“The one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

The obvious answer.

“You have judged correctly.”

Simon had just judged himself.

Cross References

2 Samuel 12:7

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”

Matthew 21:31

Jesus said, “Listen carefully: tax collectors and prostitutes will go into God's kingdom before you do.”

Romans 2:1

When you judge others, you condemn yourself, because you do the same things.

Spiritual Principle

Our own words can reveal our hearts.

Key Truth

Simon gave the right answer, but he had not yet seen himself in it.

XLIV. DO YOU SEE THIS WOMAN?

Luke 7:44 — No Water for My Feet

“Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house, but you gave Me no water for My feet. She, however, washed My feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.”

“He turned toward the woman.”

Jesus looked at her while speaking to Simon.

“Do you see this woman?”

Simon saw a sinner.

Jesus wanted him to see a forgiven, loving woman.

“You gave Me no water for My feet.”

A basic courtesy for guests after walking dusty roads.

Simon had skipped it.

“She… washed My feet with her tears.”

Cross References

John 13:5

> Jesus began to wash the followers' feet.

1 Timothy 5:10

> She must be known for good works, such as raising children, welcoming guests, washing the feet of God's people, and helping those in trouble.

Genesis 18:4

> Let me bring a little water so you can wash your feet and rest under the tree.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus sees people differently than we do.

Application

Who do you see only by their past?

XLV. NO KISS OF GREETING

Luke 7:45 — She Has Not Stopped

“You gave Me no kiss of greeting, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing My feet.”

“You gave Me no kiss of greeting.”

A kiss on the cheek was a normal welcome.

Simon gave none.

“This woman… has not stopped kissing My feet.”

Simon withheld a cheek.

She gave continual kisses to His feet.

Cross References

Genesis 29:13

> Laban ran to meet Jacob. He hugged him and kissed him and brought him to his home.

Romans 16:16

> Welcome each other warmly with a holy kiss.

1 Peter 5:14

> Give each other a loving kiss when you meet.

Spiritual Principle

Love gives freely; pride holds back.

Key Truth

Simon offered the minimum; she offered everything.

XLVI. NO OIL FOR MY HEAD

Luke 7:46 — Perfume on My Feet

“You did not anoint My head with oil, but she has anointed My feet with perfume.”

“You did not anoint My head with oil.”

Common olive oil, often offered to honored guests.

“But she has anointed My feet with perfume.”

Expensive perfume.

On His feet, not His head.

The humblest place, with the most costly gift.

Cross References

Psalm 23:5

> You set out a feast for me while my enemies watch. You honor me by pouring oil on my head, and my cup is filled to the brim.

Psalm 133:2

> It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down Aaron's beard and onto his robes.

John 12:3

> She anointed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair.

Spiritual Principle

Grateful love gives its best in humility.

Key Truth

The contrast shows who truly understood grace.

XLVII. HER MANY SINS ARE FORGIVEN

Luke 7:47 — As Her Great Love Has Shown

“Therefore I tell you, her many sins are forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.””

“Her many sins are forgiven.”

Jesus did not deny her sins.

He said they were many.

And forgiven.

“As her great love has shown.”

Her love did not earn forgiveness.

Her love was the evidence of forgiveness.

The parable makes this clear: love comes after the debt is canceled.

“Whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

Simon thought he had little to be forgiven.

So he had little love.

Those who see how much they have been forgiven love Jesus deeply.

Cross References

1 Peter 4:8

> More than anything, love one another with all your heart, since love forgives and overlooks a great many wrongs.

1 John 4:19

> The love we have for God began with His love for us.

1 Timothy 1:15

> Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and I am the worst of them.

Spiritual Principle

Forgiveness produces love.

Key Truth

Love is not the price of forgiveness; it is the proof of it.

XLVIII. YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

Luke 7:48 — Spoken to Her

“Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.””

Jesus had spoken about her to Simon.

Now He spoke directly to her.

She needed to hear it for herself.

The words every sinner longs to hear.

Spoken publicly.

Her shame was replaced by Jesus' declaration.

Cross References

Mark 2:5

> Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Luke 5:20

> Jesus said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Isaiah 43:25

> I am the One who removes your sins, for My own sake, and I will not remember them anymore.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus personally assures the repentant of forgiveness.

Key Truth

Jesus' public word replaced her public shame.

XLIX. WHO IS THIS?

Luke 7:49 — Who Even Forgives Sins?

“The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?””

The question returns.

It was asked after the paralyzed man was forgiven.

It is the central question of Luke's Gospel.

Who is Jesus?

Only God can forgive sins.

Jesus forgives sins.

Cross References

Mark 2:7

> Who can forgive sins except God alone?

Luke 5:21

> Who is this man who speaks against God? Only God can forgive sins.

Matthew 9:3

> This man is insulting God!

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' power to forgive reveals who He is.

Key Truth

Everyone must answer the question: Who is this?

L. GO IN PEACE

Luke 7:50 — Your Faith Has Saved You

“Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.””

“Your faith has saved you.”

Not her tears.

Not her perfume.

Not even her love.

Her faith in Jesus saved her.

“Go in peace.”

Peace with God.

Peace in her heart.

She came in shame.

She left in peace.

Cross References

Luke 8:48

> He told her, “My daughter, you trusted Me, and that has healed you. Go and be at peace.”

Mark 5:34

> He said to her, “Daughter, because you believed, you are healed. Go in peace, and be free from your suffering.”

Ephesians 2:8

> God's grace rescued you when you believed. You did not do this yourselves. It is a gift God gave you.

Spiritual Principle

Salvation comes through faith in Jesus.

Key Truth

She came in shame and left in peace.

LI. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 7

1. True Faith Trusts Jesus' Authority

“Just say the word, and my servant will be healed.”

Principle:

True faith trusts Jesus' word without needing signs, as the centurion did.

2. Jesus' Compassion Brings Life

“His heart went out to her.”

Principle:

Jesus' compassion brings life where there is death, as with the widow's son.

3. The Least in the Kingdom Has Great Privilege

“The one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Principle:

John prepared the way faithfully, but those in God's kingdom through Christ share even greater privileges.

4. Jesus Looks at the Heart

“Do you see this woman?”

Principle:

Religious people may judge by outward things, but Jesus looks at the heart.

5. Forgiveness Produces Love

“Her many sins are forgiven—as her great love has shown.”

Principle:

Those who grasp how much they have been forgiven love Jesus deeply.

LII. FOUR PEOPLE JESUS MET

Luke 7 shows Jesus meeting four very different people.

The Centurion

A Gentile with great faith.

Jesus responded with power.

The Widow

A grieving mother with no hope.

Jesus responded with compassion.

John the Baptist

A faithful prophet with honest doubt.

Jesus responded with evidence and encouragement.

The Sinful Woman

A repentant sinner with great love.

Jesus responded with forgiveness and peace.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Whatever our need, Jesus meets us with exactly what we need.

LIII. SIMON AND THE WOMAN

Luke contrasts two people at the same table.

Simon

A respected religious man.

Invited Jesus but gave Him no welcome.

Saw the woman only as a sinner.

Thought he had little to be forgiven.

Loved little.

The Woman

A known sinner.

Came uninvited but gave Jesus everything.

Knew she was a sinner.

Knew she had been forgiven much.

Loved much.

Key Truth

The one who knows they have been forgiven much will love much.

LIV. HOW JESUS RESPONDS TO DOUBT

John's question teaches us how to handle doubt.

Bring It to Jesus

“Are You the one who is to come?”

Look at the Evidence

“Tell John what you have seen and heard.”

Remember the Scriptures

Jesus answered with Isaiah's promises.

Keep Trusting When You Do Not Understand

“Blessed is the one who is not offended because of Me.”

Know That Jesus Still Honors You

“There is no greater prophet than John.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Honest doubt brought to Jesus can lead to stronger faith.

LV. WHAT LUKE 7 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Has Authority over Sickness

“Just say the word.”

He Welcomes Gentiles

“I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”

He Is Full of Compassion

“His heart went out to her.”

He Has Power over Death

“Young man, I say to you, arise!”

He Is the One Who Was to Come

“The blind see, the lame walk.”

He Is the Friend of Sinners

“A friend of tax collectors and sinners.”

He Knows the Heart

“Simon, I have something to say to you.”

He Forgives Sins

“Your sins are forgiven.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the compassionate Lord who heals, raises the dead, and forgives sinners.

LVI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What made the centurion's faith so great?

He trusted that Jesus' word alone could heal, even from a distance.

Question 2

How did the centurion show humility?

He said he was not worthy to have Jesus come under his roof.

Question 3

Why was the widow of Nain in such a desperate situation?

She had lost her husband and now her only son, leaving her with no one to provide for her.

Question 4

What moved Jesus to raise the widow's son?

Compassion. She did not ask; His heart went out to her.

Question 5

Why might John the Baptist have doubted?

He was in prison, and Jesus was not bringing judgment in the way John may have expected.

Question 6

How did Jesus answer John?

By pointing to His works, which fulfilled Isaiah's prophecies.

Question 7

What did Jesus say about John?

That he was more than a prophet, and no one born of women was greater.

Question 8

Why did people reject both John and Jesus?

John seemed too strict, and Jesus seemed too free. A stubborn heart finds fault with every messenger.

Question 9

What did the woman do for Jesus?

She washed His feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with perfume.

Question 10

What was the point of the parable of the two debtors?

Those who are forgiven much love much.

Question 11

Did the woman's love earn her forgiveness?

No. Her love showed she had been forgiven. Jesus said her faith saved her.

Question 12

What should Luke 7 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 7 should cause believers to live:

- Trusting Jesus' word with humble faith.
- Showing compassion to the grieving.
- Bringing their doubts honestly to Jesus.
- Keeping faith when Jesus does not meet their expectations.
- Seeing people as Jesus sees them, not by their past.
- Remembering how much they have been forgiven.
- Loving Jesus extravagantly.

- Living in the peace of His forgiveness.

LVII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 7 asks several important questions.

Do I Trust Jesus' Word?

Even when I cannot see Him working?

Do I Come to Jesus Humbly?

Like the centurion?

Do I Believe Jesus Cares About My Sorrow?

Like the widow's?

What Do I Do with My Doubts?

Do I bring them to Jesus?

Am I Offended When Jesus Does Not Do What I Expect?

Or do I keep trusting?

How Do I See Others?

Like Simon, or like Jesus?

Do I Know How Much I Have Been Forgiven?

Or do I think I am a small debtor?

How Much Do I Love Jesus?

Does my love show it?

LVIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Do You See This Woman?”

Simon looked at the woman.

He saw her past.

He saw her reputation.

He saw a sinner.

Jesus looked at the same woman.

He saw her tears.

He saw her faith.

He saw her love.

He saw a forgiven daughter of God.

Then Jesus asked Simon:

“Do you see this woman?”

It is a question for every one of us.

Do we see people as their sins?

Or do we see them as Jesus does?

This creates a powerful principle.

The way we see others reveals how well we understand our own forgiveness.

Principle:

Those who know how much they have been forgiven learn to see others through the eyes of grace.

LIX. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 7 shows Jesus meeting people in their need.

A Roman officer trusts His word.

A widow receives her son back from the dead.

John the Baptist asks an honest question.

Jesus honors John before the crowd.

He is called a friend of sinners.

A sinful woman weeps at His feet.

And He sends her away forgiven and in peace.

Luke 7 therefore reminds us:

Never think you are too unworthy to ask Jesus for help.

Never think your sorrow is unseen.

Never be afraid to bring your doubts to Jesus.

Never look down on others because of their past.

Never forget how much you have been forgiven.

The church does not need people who only invite Jesus to dinner.

It needs:

People with humble, trusting faith.

People who show compassion to the grieving.

People who see others through the eyes of grace.

And people who love Jesus much because they have been forgiven much.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that Jesus' word has power.

Tell people that He cares about their sorrow.

Tell people that He is the friend of sinners.

Tell people that their sins can be forgiven.

And as you live:

Trust His word.

Show compassion.

See with grace.

Love Him much.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that Jesus' word has power to heal.

Thank You that He welcomes people from every nation who trust Him.

Thank You that His heart goes out to the grieving.

Thank You that He has power over death.

Thank You that He is patient with our doubts.

Thank You that He is the friend of sinners.

Thank You that He forgives our many sins.

Forgive us when we have trusted our own worthiness instead of His grace.

Forgive us when we have been offended that He did not act as we expected.

Forgive us when we have looked down on others like Simon.

Forgive us when we have loved little because we forgot how much we were forgiven.

Give us humble faith like the centurion.

Give us compassion like Jesus.

Help us see people through the eyes of grace.

Fill our hearts with great love for Jesus.

And let us live every day in the peace of Your forgiveness.

“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Therefore I tell you, her many sins are forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” — Luke 7:47

Central Truth

Jesus responds to humble faith with power, to sorrow with compassion, to doubt with evidence, and to repentant sinners with forgiveness that produces great love.

Luke 7 in One Sentence

Jesus heals a centurion's servant by His word, raises a widow's only son out of compassion, answers John the Baptist's doubt with works that fulfill Scripture and honors him before the crowd, and at a Pharisee's table forgives a sinful woman whose great love shows how much she has been forgiven.