# Bible Study 63

### January 18, 20232

 The Gospel of Luke (continued)

Luke chapter 7 is a strange story of Jesus performing a healing. If we were to think of the action as a scene from a Play, then the disciples would be the audience and Jesus and the Centurion the main players. So what is so strange about the story?

1. It takes place in Capernaum, a small fishing village on the west bank of the Sea of Galilee. It is an odd place to find a Roman centurion.

2. The sickness does not belong to the centurion but to his servant. He sends Jewish elders to plead his case with Jesus.

3. Odd also because the centurion is a Gentile, a pagan and a foreigner.

4. It is one of those rare stories where dialogue takes place. The centurion sends friends to say: do not come to my house, just say the word and my servant will be healed…” Jews could not by law enter the house of a Gentile.

Jesus cures the man from a distance. What is the point of the story? Surely we have to go back and explore the message and purpose of Luke’s Gospel.

1. He was writing for the Gentiles.

2. His Gospel has a Universal message that Christ came for all.

3. He was a companion of Paul, who was Roman educated.

4. He was involved with the argument over circumcision and non-jews being baptized.

5. We have to remember that Paul and Luke went first to the Jewish Christian communities of the

 Diaspora, where these were the topics of the day.

So what do you think? Are there people today that we scorn or judge harshly? Who would they be? African? American? Latino? Mexican? Gay? Transgender? Addicts? Surely these are the people Jesus would embrace? Did Jesus not help the poor, the sick, the prostitute, the Roman, the dead and the fallen and the leper?

The healing of the Centurion’s servant is followed by a story “The Widow of Nain’s son. Jesus goes to a town named Nain. Noticed that the story follows on from the previous, so it is subsequential or chronological. Almost as if the narrator is sitting around a campfire relating story after story.

1. The story has detail---the town gate. The only son. She was a widow.

2. Jesus ‘ “his out went out to her.”

3. Dialogue: “Do not cry.”

4. He touched the coffin.

5. “Young man I say to you get up.” The dead man sat up and began to talk.

6. The crowd are struck with ‘awe’.

7. Why did the news spread throughout Judea when the miracle took place in Galilee?

##### Read Chapter 7