

Rediscover Jesus, 16: “Jesus and Authority”

Luke 7:1-10

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*Trust in his Word and submit to his authority
for our Lord Jesus Christ graciously loves the unworthy.*

I. An earthly authority who demonstrated his love (vv.1-5)

Luke 7:1-2 (ESV)

¹After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him.

- The right way to value other people is to value them by their God-given worth, especially if they are in a lower status than we are. This is a glimpse of how our God graciously values us.

Luke 7:3-5 (ESV)

³When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue.”

- In contrast, the wrong way to value people is to value them by their merit and works, especially when it is for our own benefit. This is a glimpse of how we bargain with Jesus to do favors for us.

Life Application #1: Consider our recent interactions with others to better see what our values are.

- Interactions with people: Do I value the God-given worth of people in my life, especially those who work/serve under me?
- Interactions with Jesus: Do I value my merit and works as I bargain with Jesus to do favors for me?

II. An extraordinary authority who deserves our faith (vv.6-10)

Luke 7:6-8 (ESV)

⁶And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I too am a man set under authority, with 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.”

- The faith that makes Jesus marvel is one that:
 1. Understands our unworthiness in light of Jesus’ surpassing worth.
 2. Trusts Jesus at his word and humbly submits to his supreme authority.

Luke 7:9-10 (ESV)

⁹When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” ¹⁰And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

- Jesus uses such desperate and dependent faith to call others into faith in him.

Life Application #2: Consider the surpassing worth of Jesus Christ to better see how he deserves faith from all people.

- In my faith in Christ: Do I treasure Christ and what he has accomplished on the cross for my sins?
- In my gospel witness: Do I invite others to see the worth of Christ and pray for their faith?