

The Ministry of Compassion (Part 1)
The Result of Great Faith
03-03-19

Luke 7:1-10

Even at 7 chap, we are really still at the beginning. Jesus has chosen the 12 disciples, he has established Himself as the Messiah, the One promised from the OT, although most around Him didn't get the point yet. He has cast His vision of what the New Covenant is going to look like that there is a new radical love that is to define those who truly love God. The Beattitudes and the SotM

Now He is going to establish that the Kingdom is not just for the Jews, and most particularly not for the religious leaders, but only for those that believe in Him.

Over the next few passages we see Jesus showing great compassion directly to a unique group of people.

Centurion
Widow
Doubting Disciple – JtB
Sinful woman

Compassion has been defined as “your pain in my heart.”

While ministering directly to these “out of the ordinary,” “out of the acceptable list” typical of Jewish religious leaders. Jesus ministers to a sick servant, a dead son, a confused prophet and a repentant sinner.

If we were to list these in order of importance, we would be hard pressed to decide which of these were more deserving.

Jesus helped them all because compassion does not measure, it ministers.

Compassion: It does not measure, it ministers.

The church is the only institution in the history of the world where acceptance into its membership is based upon qualifications that the candidate be completely unworthy of inclusion.

Luke 5:32 – I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (CSB)

Jesus is going to establish the premise that all are in need of salvation. No one is exempt. Although the toughest ones to convince are the ones who think they are already righteous.

I've often wondered at the faith of those who would have been clearly rejected by the religious system of the time...these in this list.

No wonder their faith was so strong, they had no pretense that they were anything special. Perhaps we could learn much from their spiritual humility.

As we venture through these 3 stories, we are to look both at Jesus' response as He is our perfect model to emulate.

But we are also to learn either positively from or by means of a good lesson how to respond with faith and hope and trust in our own life situations.

I. Great faith **cares** deeply for people. (v.2)

John 15:12 – This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. (CSB)

Galatians 5:5-6 – ⁵But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. (NLT)

II. Great faith involves **action**.

Acts 17:27 – He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. (CSB)

Psalms 105:4 – Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. (CSB)

III. Great faith requires **humility**. (v. 6-8)

James 4:6 – But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (CSB)

Psalms 51:17 – The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God. (CSB)

IV. Great faith stirs the **power** of Jesus. (v.9-10)

2 Corinthians 12:9 – But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me. (CSB)

Ephesians 1:19 – and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength. (CSB)

Colossians 1:16 – For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him. (CSB)

Thought For The Week:

Lord, **increase** our faith!