

Introduction

*How do you respond to suffering? When everything in life seems to work against you, does it drive you to seek God? We should **not** seek God only in times of need; that is **not** a relationship. But in times of need, we **should** seek Him.*

God is **able** to do all things. God **loves** His people. When we suffer, we can seek grace and mercy from an all-powerful, all-loving God.

The Centurion's Servant

[Luke 7:1-2](#) “1 After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him.”

Where did Jesus go after His sermon? [Luke 7:1](#) “... he entered Capernaum.” Capernaum was a city on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee [*Melton Winstead, Lexham Bible Dictionary*]. Jesus lived in Capernaum for a time ([Matt 4:13](#); [9:1](#)).

What is a centurion? A centurion was a Roman officer who oversaw about 80 soldiers [*Lexham Bible Dictionary*].

What was wrong with the centurion's servant? [Luke 7:2](#) “Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death ...”

[Luke 7:3-5](#) “3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, 5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue.””

Who came to Jesus on behalf of the centurion? [Luke 7:3](#) “When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews ...

What did the centurion request from Jesus? [Luke 7:3](#) “... asking him to come and heal his servant.”

What did the elders tell Jesus about the centurion? [Luke 7:4-5](#) “... He is worthy to have you do this for him, 5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue.””

What is a synagogue? The synagogue was the local place of worship for first-century Jews. Although the temple was the primary place of worship, synagogues developed in cities throughout the Roman Empire for weekly worship.

[Luke 7:6-8](#) “6 And 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. 7 Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For 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.””

*Why did the centurion say Jesus did not need to come to His house? First, [Luke 7:6](#) “... Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.” **Remember**, the elders had already said that the centurion **was** worthy. Apparently, he was quite humble. Second, [Luke 7:7-8](#) “... say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For 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.””*

[Luke 7:9-10](#) “9 When 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.” 10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.”

*What did Jesus say about the centurion’s faith? [Luke 7:9](#) “... not even in Israel have I found such faith.” Only twice does Scripture say that Jesus marveled (θαυμάζω) [*Leon Morris, TNTC*]. He marveled at the unbelief in Nazareth ([Mark 6:6](#)) and the faith of this centurion.*

What happened to the centurion’s servant? [Luke 7:10](#) “... they found the servant well.”

Reflection

This passage highlights Jesus’s authority, as recognized by the centurion. Jesus had authority beyond His physical limits (His presence). His word is enough.

This passage also highlights the faith of the centurion in contrast with the lack of faith in Israel. This reflects [John 1:11-13](#) - “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.”

The centurion’s faith is a model for us. Christ’s authority has no physical limits; therefore, we should trust His authority in **every setting**. I can pray for you when we are not together. I can pray for missionaries around the world and Christ is not limited in answering my prayer.

The Widow’s Son

[Luke 7:11-12](#) “11 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. 12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.”

Where did Jesus go after Capernaum? [Luke 7:11](#) “11 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain...” Although the location is somewhat uncertain, Nain was likely a small town north-east of Nazareth. The location is about a one-day journey from Capernaum [*Leon Morris, TNTC*].

Who was being carried out of the town when He arrived? [Luke 7:12](#) “12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow...” The woman had no one to care for her and she had no heir.

[Luke 7:13–15](#) “13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.”

How was Jesus affected by the mourning widow? [Luke 7:13](#) “... he had compassion on her ...”

What is a “bier?” A “bier” is a platform used to hold a coffin or deceased person. The word (σποός) can also mean “coffin;” however, first-century Jews usually used biers (see *Josephus, J.A., xvii.197*) [*Leon Morris, TNTC*].

What happened when Jesus told the young man to arise? [Luke 7:15](#) “... the dead man sat up and began to speak ...”

[Luke 7:16–17](#) “16 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” 17 And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.”

Whom did the people glorify for this resurrection? [Luke 7:16](#) “... they glorified God ...”

What did they say about Jesus? [Luke 7:16](#) “... A great prophet has arisen among us ...”

Reflection

This event tells us two important things about Jesus. First, Jesus has authority to give life. Second, Jesus has compassion for people.

These are important as we seek eternal life. We can trust Jesus’s promise of eternal life because He has the **power** to give life. We can trust Jesus’s promise of eternal life because He **desires** to give life.

Messengers from John

Jesus’s report

[Luke 7:18–20](#) “18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or

shall we look for another?” 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’ ””

What did John’s disciples ask Jesus? [Luke 7:20](#) “... Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

[Luke 7:21–23](#) “21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. 23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.””

What things did Jesus do that gave evidence that He was the coming Messiah? Jesus healed the sick, demon-possessed, blind, lame, lepers, deaf, and dead. Jesus proclaimed the gospel. [Isaiah 35:4–6](#) “4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;” **God had come.**

John the Baptist

[Luke 7:24–28](#) “24 When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. 26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is he of whom it is written, “ ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ 28 I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.””

John was not a reed shaken by the wind or a man of luxury. *What does Jesus say he was in verse 26?* [Luke 7:26](#) “... A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.” Jesus quotes [Malachi 3:1](#) and applies it to John. He was the forerunner of the Lord.

Who is greater than John? [Luke 7:28](#) “... the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”” *Why is the Kingdom greater than John?* This does not mean that John was not part of the Kingdom. [Luke 13:28](#) describes the prophets in the Kingdom of God. The point is that although John was more than a prophet, one should not strive to be like John. Being in the Kingdom is far more important than being the greatest prophet. **Additionally**, the prophets belonged to a time of foretelling the coming of the Kingdom. Now, Jesus had brought the Kingdom and they could be part of it.

[Luke 7:29–30](#) “29 (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, 30 but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)”

Who that heard this had been baptized by John (accepting His message)? [Luke 7:29](#) “... When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too ...” Who refused John’s baptism and teaching? [Luke 7:30](#) “but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)”

This generation

[Luke 7:31–35](#) “31 “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, “ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ 33 For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ 35 Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.””

How did Jesus describe John’s life in verse 33? [Luke 7:33](#) “For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine ...” What was their reaction to John? [Luke 7:33](#) “... you say, ‘He has a demon.’”

How did Jesus describe His life in verse 34? [Luke 7:34](#) “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking ...” What was their reaction to Jesus? [Luke 7:34](#) “... you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’”

Reflection

***Why does Scripture record Jesus’s miracles?* These are not merely entertaining stories. We can see this in Jesus’s communication with John. These events are recorded to **assure** us that Jesus is who He claimed to be. Scripture teaches that Jesus is God and that He became a human to live and die to atone for the sins of God’s people; that is, those of faith. We can have confidence in the promise because we have confidence in Christ.

Conclusion

God can do all things. He can give life to the dead. He can heal the sick. He can give eternal life to sinners.

God is loving. The Father sent Jesus to live and die in our place to atone for our sins. He hears and answers the prayers of His people.

How should you respond to difficult times? Seek God because He is all-powerful and all-loving.

Closing Scripture: [Hebrews 4:16](#) “16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”