

I. Intro

A. Last week, we studied Luke 6

1. Healings on the Sabbath
2. Calling the 12 disciples
3. Sermon contrasting the old and new

B. Jesus is bringing more than a sermon

1. Luke 6 – Jesus taught about the kingdom
2. Luke 7 – Jesus demonstrates the kingdom
3. Not here for theory or hypothesis – Jesus deals in reality and transformation

II. Text

A. Luke 7:1-10

1. Story moves us from teaching to practice
 - a) Vs 1 – after all his sayings, he entered Capernaum
 - b) Map of the region [MAP]
2. A centurion has a need, sends for Jesus
 - a) Jesus agrees, on the way the centurion sends another message
 - b) Reveals his understanding – teaching is something you practice
3. Authority always flows from the top down
 - a) Rome → Centurion → soldiers || Father → Son → creation
 - b) Soldiers obey commands || creation must obey Jesus' commands
 - c) This is why Jesus marvels – centurion believes Jesus and acts on it
 - (1) Authority isn't an abstract concept – it works in reality
 - (2) Gentile centurion believes and Israel does not
4. *When Jesus came to His own people, He did not find this faith*
 - a) *What would He find if He visited us today?*
 - b) *People that understand the teaching, but don't practice believing it?*
 - c) *What would our lives look like if we really believed what we read?*
 - d) *Would we worry? Fear? Covet? Gossip? – What about worship, evangelism?*

B. Luke 7:11-17

1. Jesus approaches a funeral and has compassion on a woman
 - a) She lost everything. She is now poor and weeping.
 - b) Remember Lk 6:20-21 – blessed are the poor and those who weep
 - c) Jesus resurrects the boy – moving us from teaching to practice
2. It is one thing to hear “your weeping will turn to laughing”
 - a) Something very different to experience it for real
 - b) This moment brings all the teachings of Luke 6 to life – literally
 - c) Everything Jesus taught, through resurrection power, is now alive
3. *There is just one question: Why this woman? Why this son?*
 - a) *Why not me? Why not my son? My daughter?*
 - b) *Why doesn't Christ have compassion for my situation? My weeping?*
4. Luke anticipates this question
 - a) To answer it, he draws our attention to John the Baptist

C. Luke 7:18-35

1. John is in prison
 - a) “Behold the lamb” has turned into “should we keep looking?”
 - b) *This doubt, this questioning of God's ways, is what Luke is addressing*
 - (1) *Why not me? Why not my situation?*
 - (2) *I have all these unmet expectations of Jesus*
 - (3) *Why is God doing things His way instead of my way?*
2. *Here is the answer – blessed is the one who is not offended by Jesus*
 - a) *Jesus is the king and you are not*
 - (1) *We are following His plan, His timing, and His ways – not yours*
 - (2) *This means you won't always get answers*
 - (3) *This means sometimes the answer to prayer is no, or not yet*
 - b) *But, do you see all He has done and is doing?*
 - (1) *That is evidence that His “no” is exactly what you need*
 - (2) *Believe that His word, His timing, His ways are best*
3. To illustrate this point, Jesus reminds everyone why they went to John

- a) Sought John because He was a prophet
- b) Spoke a better truth – preparing the way for Jesus
- c) Now that Jesus is here, don't get upset He isn't what you wanted
 - (1) Don't get upset that when his teachings, when practiced, are difficult
 - (2) Don't act like children playing games with each other and with God
 - (3) Who gets mad because nobody wants to play their games
- 4. *Wisdom is justified by her children*
 - a) *Examine what happens when you put the teaching into practice*
 - b) *What fruit, or children are produced when you act on wisdom*
 - (1) *The wisdom of this world produces a kind of offspring*
 - (2) *The wisdom of God produces a kind of offspring*
 - c) *Look at the evidence*
 - (1) *What happens when you act on the college professor's advice?*
 - (2) *What happens when you act of Jesus' teachings?*

D. Which way is more fruitful? – Luke gives us one final picture

III. Conclusion

A. Luke 7:36-50

- 1. Picture is a contrast:
 - a) Religious Pharisee on one side of the room
 - (1) Carefully examining Jesus, deciding if His teaching is worth obeying
 - b) Sinful woman on the other
 - (1) No examination necessary, simply believes and acts on her belief
- 2. What is the difference?
 - a) One is forgiven, grateful, filled with humility and worship
 - b) The other is judgmental, self-righteous, and unloving
- 3. Wisdom is justified by her children – look at the results and choose your path
 - a) Listen to Jesus, believe His word, obey it, and He will change your life
 - b) Listen to the wisdom of this age and follow its path down to destruction
 - c) There is no middle ground