

## **WHO IS THIS JESUS? – LUKE 7:11-8:3**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Luke's account of the healing of the centurion's servant showed Jesus' authority to heal.
2. In this lesson we want to notice some other incidents that Luke records that answer the question "Who is this Jesus?"

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. JESUS RAISES THE DEAD**

- A. Not long after healing the centurion's servant, Jesus went to the town of Nain, about twenty miles southwest of Capernaum.
- B. Accompanied by His disciples and a large crowd, they met a funeral procession for the son of a widow (**Luke 7:11-12**).
  - i. They were carrying him out because graveyards were usually outside the city for the sake of ritual cleanliness (**Num. 5:1-4; 19:11-20**).
  - ii. The woman is now completely destitute, having lost her son.
- C. Filled with compassion, He raised her son from the dead (**Luke 7:13-15**)!
- D. The crowd's response was fear and awe (**Luke 7:16-17**).
  - i. Here is one like the prophets of old, Elijah and Elisha (**1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:31-37**).
  - ii. God had come again among His people bringing mercy and grace (**Luke 1:68**).
- E. Who is Jesus?
- F. Jesus is one who sees humanity's suffering and has compassion.
- G. Jesus is one who has the power to confront and conquer death (**John 5:25-29; Eph. 2:1-10**).

#### **II. JESUS FULFILLS THE PROPHETS**

- A. As word of Jesus' deeds spread to Judea, John the Baptist heard what was happening, and struggling with doubts, sent messengers to question Jesus (**Luke 7:18-20**).
- B. But instead of answering John's question directly, Jesus performed deeds that showed God's presence was with Him (**Luke 7:21-23**).
  - i. Jesus' acts fulfilled many of Isaiah's prophecies about the Messiah (**Isa. 26:19; 29:18; 35:5-6; 42:18; 61:1**).
  - ii. Jesus expected John to look at the evidence and draw the right conclusion.
- C. Jesus took advantage of the opportunity to explain both John's and His role in God's plan to redeem mankind (**Luke 7:24-35**).
  - i. Neither Jesus nor John were what the people expected.
  - ii. But God's wisdom is revealed in the lives of those who forget what they want and embrace what God wants by believing and obeying Him (**Rom. 11:33-36; Isa. 55:8-9**).
- D. Who is Jesus?
- E. Jesus is the one who fulfills the Prophets and the Scripture (**Luke 24:44**).

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- F. Jesus is the one who can overcome our doubts, giving us plenty of reasons to trust Him and obey Him (**John 20:30-31**).

### **III. JESUS FORGIVES SINNERS**

- A. Following this encounter with John's disciples we find Jesus in the home of Simon, a Pharisee, along with a sinful woman (**Luke 7:36-40**).
  - i. Because Jesus doesn't rebuke or refuse the woman's kindness and hospitality, Simon thinks to himself that Jesus cannot be a true prophet.
  - ii. However, Jesus knows Simon's thoughts, thus showing that He is a true prophet.
- B. Jesus taught Simon a lesson by giving a parable about the power of love and forgiveness (**Luke 7:41-50**).
  - i. Here are two religious leaders in the presence of a sinner.
  - ii. One rejects her and the other moves towards her.
  - iii. But the real point of Jesus' parable is that the woman, recognizing her condition, expresses penitence and love toward Jesus, but Simon does not.
  - iv. It is the sinful woman, who extended the hospitality that Simon withheld, who winds up being forgiven because of her faith and love.
- C. Who is Jesus?
- D. Jesus is the one who loves and seeks and saves the lost (**Luke 19:10**).
- E. Jesus is the one who has the power and authority to forgive sin (**Luke 24:45-46; 5:21; Mark 16:16**).

### **IV. JESUS SEEKS TO SAVE ALL**

- A. After the forgiveness of the sinful woman, Luke turned again to Jesus' travels proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, but Jesus wasn't alone.
- B. Not only were the twelve with Him, but several women (**Luke 8:1-3**).
- C. In a time when women were often undervalued and mistreated, Jesus' ministry incorporated women whose role was one of supporting His ministry (**Gal. 6:6**).
- D. Who is Jesus?
- E. Jesus is the one who came to love and save all, be they male or female (**Gal. 3:28-29; 1 Pet. 3:7**).

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Who is Jesus?
2. Luke shows us that He is the one who has power over death, who fulfills the Prophets, who has the power to forgive sin and who seeks the salvation of all and draws all to Him.
3. There were those in Jesus' day who rejected God's purpose in John who heralded to the coming of the Lord (**Luke 7:29**).
4. Knowing who Jesus is, will we accept or reject God's purpose in Christ (**John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Rev. 2:10**)?