

**INTRODUCTION:** We know that God values the quality of faith. "Without faith it is impossible to please God," the writer of Hebrews affirms. But does God ever help those who fail to ask for His help? Today we are going to look at two incidents from the ministry of Jesus that remind us of both God's power and His compassion.

- I. The Case Of The Believing Centurion (Luke 7:1-10)
  - A. The Centurion's Need (Luke 7:1-3)

Luke 7:2 "And a certain centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die."

B. The Centurion's Character (Luke 7:4-5)

Luke 7:3 "And when he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave."

Luke 7:4-5 "<sup>4</sup> And when they had come to Jesus, they earnestly entreated Him, saying, 'He is worthy for You to grant this to him; <sup>5</sup> for he loves our nation, and it was he who built us our synagogue."

C. The Centurion's Faith (Luke 7:6-10)

Definition of Faith: Faith is believing that God will do whatever He says He will do, and acting accordingly.



Luke 7:6 "Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, 'Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof;'"

Luke 7:7 "For this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed."

Luke 7:9 "Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that was following Him, 'I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith."

Luke 7:10 "And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health."

II. The Case Of The Grieving Widow (Luke 7:11-17)

Luke 7:11-12 "<sup>11</sup> And it came about soon afterwards, that He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples were going along with Him, accompanied by a large multitude. <sup>12</sup> Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her."

Luke 7:13-14 "<sup>13</sup> And when the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, 'Do not weep.' <sup>14</sup> And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise!'"

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 "<sup>16</sup> The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord."

Luke 7:15 "And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother."

Luke 7:13 "And when the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, 'Do not weep."

Conclusion