

# The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

## Chapter 7

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

September 2023 Draft<sup>1</sup>

### Background

- Retired centurions had been well paid and often settled far from military camps.
- Roman officers were not allowed to marry until retirement after 20 years, so their household consisted of trustworthy servants.
- As in many cultures, if a woman lost her husband and if she had no sons who could work, then she would be very vulnerable to poverty.
- Ancient cultures valued both generosity and reciprocity.

### History

- Judea was under Roman political authority supported by Roman military might.
- King Herod Agrippa had jailed John for condemning his immorality..

### Themes

- True faith trusts in Jesus' divine authority over both nature and the unseen realm.
- "Wisdom is vindicated by all her children."
- "Those who are forgiven only a little, love only a little."

### Jesus heals a Roman officer's servant<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus finished speaking to the people who were listening to his messages, he left with his disciples to go to Capernaum town. <sup>2</sup> A Roman Centurion<sup>3</sup> lived there, who had a slave who was very helpful.<sup>4</sup> But this slave was so sick that he was about to die.

<sup>3</sup> When the Centurion/officer heard about Jesus, he summoned some Jewish elders. He told them to go to Jesus and ask him to come and heal his slave. <sup>4</sup> When they came to where Jesus was, they earnestly asked Jesus to return with them. They said, "This Centurion deserves that you<sup>(sg)</sup> do this for him, <sup>5</sup> because he loves us Jewish people, and he paid his own money to build a synagogue for us." So, Jesus went with them.

---

<sup>1</sup> Licensed for use under Creative Commons. Text in *italics* is implied from historical or cultural context. Superscripted <sup>(pl)</sup> means plural, <sup>(sg)</sup> singular, <sup>(inc)</sup> inclusive, <sup>(exc)</sup> exclusive pronoun.

<sup>2</sup> OR Jesus commends a Roman officer's faith.

<sup>3</sup> OR A Roman army officer. OR A high-ranking soldier. OR A Roman military commander.

<sup>4</sup> OR who was very valuable. OR whom he appreciated/loved very much.

## The Good News about Jesus as Luke Wrote it

<sup>6</sup> When Jesus and the elders came near to the Centurion's house, he told some friends to go meet Jesus and tell him this message:

"Sir, do not bother yourself to come nearer to my house. Because you have more authority than I do,<sup>5</sup> I am not worthy that you<sup>(sg)</sup> come into my house. Nor am I worthy to come to you.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Instead, please command/speak from where you are that my servant be healed, and he will become well. <sup>8</sup> because I know/believe you have authority from God to do so. I understand about authority: My leaders/bosses have authority over me and I obey them. I also have authority over other soldiers. When I say to a soldier, 'Go!' he goes. When I say to another soldier 'Come!' he comes. When I say to my slave, 'Do this!' he does so."

<sup>9</sup> When the Centurion's friends arrived and told this to Jesus, he marveled<sup>7</sup> at what the Centurion had said. Then he turned and said to the crowd that was going with him, "I tell you, I have never before found anyone who has faith as strong as this foreigner has, not even here in Israel where people believe in the true God!"

<sup>10</sup> When those friends returned to the officer's house, they saw that the slave was well.

### Jesus raises to life a young man<sup>8</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Soon after that, Jesus went to a town called Nain. His disciples and a large crowd went with him. <sup>12</sup> As they approached the town gate, people were carrying out from the town, (on a stretcher,<sup>9</sup>) a young man's corpse/dead body. His mother was a widow, and he was her only son.<sup>10</sup> A large crowd from the town was following behind.

<sup>13</sup> When the Lord Jesus saw her, he pitied her. He said to her, "Stop weeping!" <sup>14</sup> Then, *ignoring the Jewish laws about not coming near a corpse*, he came near and touched the stretcher on which the corpse/body was lying. So the men carrying it stood still. Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" <sup>15</sup> Immediately, the man sat up and began to talk! So Jesus returned him to his mother *to care for her*.

<sup>16</sup> Seeing this happen, everyone there was amazed/awestruck. So they praised God, saying, "A great prophet has come amongst us!" They also said, "God has come to help his people!" <sup>17</sup> Then they reported what Jesus had done throughout all Judea district and in surrounding region/towns.

### Jesus declares John to be God's messenger

<sup>18</sup> Some men who were John's disciples went to the prison where John was and told him what Jesus was doing. <sup>19</sup> So one day John summoned two disciples and told them to go to the Lord Jesus and ask him: "Are you the Messiah whom the prophets prophesied would come? Or is it someone else whom we should expect to come?"

<sup>20</sup> When those two men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptizer sent us to ask you <sup>(sg)</sup> this: Are you the Messiah whom we are expecting God to send? Or shall we (exc) expect someone else?" <sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> OR because you are higher-ranking than I am.

<sup>6</sup> OR I am also not good/important enough to come to you.

<sup>7</sup> OR he was amazed/surprised.

<sup>8</sup> Jesus brings a widow's dead son back to life.

<sup>9</sup> OR wide plank.

<sup>10</sup> OR His mother's husband had died, and the young man was her only son.

Whilst they watched Jesus, he was healing many people's diseases and other sicknesses, he was casting out evil spirits, and he was causing many blind people to be able to see.

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus answered those two men,

"Go back and report to John what you have seen me do and what you have heard me say to people. I enable blind people to see. I enable lame people to walk. I heal people who have a skin disease. I enable deaf people to hear. I cause dead people to become alive again. And I tell God's good message to poor people. <sup>23</sup> Also tell John that God is pleased with all those who still believe in me, when I do not do all that they want messiah to do for them."<sup>11</sup>

<sup>24</sup> After the men whom John had sent left, Jesus began to talk to the crowds/people about John. He said to them,

"When you went to desolate areas to see John, *he never changed his message to please people*. He was not like a reed that the wind blows back and forth. <sup>25</sup> What did you get out to see? Was John a man who wore expensive clothes? No! It is those living in kings' palaces who wear beautiful clothes and enjoy luxury!<sup>12</sup> <sup>26</sup> What did you get out to see? Was John a prophet? Yes! But I am telling you that John is more (important) than prophets are. <sup>27</sup> John is the one about whom God spoke to the messiah through the prophet Malachi when he wrote: 'Listen! I will send my messenger before you <sup>(sg)</sup>. He will prepare *people to welcome you when you come to them*.' <sup>28</sup> I tell you this: among all the people who have ever lived, God considers John to be the greatest.<sup>13</sup> However, God will consider everyone who obeys his messiah to be greater<sup>14</sup> than John."

<sup>29</sup> (When the people heard<sup>15</sup> Jesus say this, those whom John had baptized, including tax collectors, agreed that God's ways are right.<sup>16</sup> <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees, and the men who taught Jewish laws, who did not let John baptize them, rejected what God wanted them to do.<sup>17</sup>)

<sup>31</sup> Jesus also said, "I shall tell you what you people are like these days. <sup>32</sup> You are like children playing games *while their parents buy and sell things* in a market.<sup>18</sup> Some call to others, 'We (exc) played happy music for you our flutes, but you did not dance! Then we sang sad songs for you, but you did not weep!' <sup>33</sup> *Similarly, you people are dissatisfied with both John the Baptizer and me!* When John came and preached to you, he did not eat ordinary food or drink wine, *as most people do*. So you rejected him, saying, 'A demon is controlling him!'

<sup>34</sup> In contrast, I who am the Divine Son, eat the same food and drink the same wine *as do you*. *But you reject me, too*, saying, 'Look! This man eats too much food and drinks too much wine. And he

---

<sup>11</sup> OR *even though I do not kill/destroy their enemies*.

<sup>12</sup> OR expensive things.

<sup>13</sup> OR most important.

<sup>14</sup> OR more important.

<sup>15</sup> ("having heard" without an object, seems to refer to Jesus' words, not to John's. Although this is an editorial comment, it seems to make Jesus' teaching the definitive message, rather than John's.)

<sup>16</sup> OR Those people who had heard John, including tax collectors, and whom John had baptized, agreed that God's ways are right.

<sup>17</sup> OR what God wanted to do for them.

<sup>18</sup> OR out-of-doors. OR on market day.

makes friends with tax collectors and other sinners!’<sup>35</sup> But just as wise parents rear wise children, so *John’s disciples’ and my disciples’ wisdom*<sup>19</sup> *show/prove that we are wise men.*<sup>20</sup>

## Jesus forgives a woman who believes in him

<sup>36</sup> One day, a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to eat a meal with him. So Jesus went to the man’s house. *As was their custom, they reclined/lay on couches/beds to eat near a low table.*

<sup>37</sup> There was a woman in that city who was a prostitute, *who had heard Jesus teach and had seen his miracles.* When someone told her that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee’s house, she went there, taking with her a small stone jar<sup>21</sup> that contained perfume. <sup>38</sup> *She came into Simon’s house and stood behind Jesus, at his feet. She began weeping, because she was sorry for her sins. She wetted Jesus’ feet with her tears, then wiped his feet with her long hair, kissing his feet, and anointed them with perfume from her bottle.*

<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this happening, he thought *quietly, “Prophets know about other people’s lives, so if Jesus were a prophet, he would know who this woman is who is touching him, and what a sinful person she is. He would have known that she is a prostitute!”*<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to him, “Simon, there is something I want to tell you <sup>(sg).</sup>” He replied, “Teacher, what is it?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus replied,

“Two people owed some money to a moneylender who earned money by lending it to others. One man owed him 500 silver coins, and the other man owed him 50 silver coins.<sup>42</sup> Neither man was able to pay back what he owed, so the moneylender very kindly said that they did not have to pay back anything.

So, which man will love that moneylender more?”<sup>43</sup> Simon replied, “I think that the one who owed the most money and did not have to pay it back will love him more.” Jesus said to him, “That is correct.”

<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus turned *his face* towards the woman, and said to Simon, “You see what this woman has been doing. When I entered your house, *you did not follow our custom to welcome guests by giving me some water with which to wash my feet, but this woman wetted my feet with her tears and then wiped them with her hair!*<sup>45</sup> Also, you did not *follow our greeting custom* by embracing me, but since I came in here, this woman has not stopped kissing my feet!<sup>46</sup> *You did not follow our welcoming custom by anointing my head with olive oil, but she anointed my feet with fragrant perfume.*<sup>47</sup> So I tell you that I have forgiven her all the sinful things that she has done. This is why she has shown that she loves me very much. But if anyone does *not confess all his sins to God, then God* forgives him only a little, and he will love me only a little.”<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to the woman, “I forgive you all your sins.”

<sup>49</sup> Then those who were eating with Jesus said amongst themselves, “*This man seems to think that he is God, because he forgives people their sins!*”<sup>50</sup> But Jesus said to the woman, “Because you believe in me, God has saved you from *the punishment that your sins deserved.* As you go, enjoy peace with God!”

---

<sup>19</sup> In Jewish tradition, wisdom is often personified as a wise mother of righteous children. Proverbs 1:20, 23, 33.

<sup>20</sup> OR show/prove that our teaching is true/right.

<sup>21</sup> The jar had been carved from a soft stone called alabaster.