

Luke 6.37-7.10

Made Worthy by my Savior

WE Look Pretty GOOD – Upstanding – Worthy of being ACCEPTED

Billion Muslims FASTING / Month Ramadan > Earning Allah's Favor

Premise of Every Religion in World – Except 1 – Saved by Good Works

1. Worthy by Myself

a. Benefactor Luke > Narrative Theology – God Changing PEOPLE

Ch 6 End of Sermon on Plain / 1/3 length Mt's Mount – Same Themes

Ch 7 – 4 People who ENCOUNTER God in JESUS the CHRIST

1st Man – Gentile Soldier – Vivid Example of Principles of ch 6 Sermon

CENTURION = Led 100 Men, then Equiv of ARMY CAPTAIN

Historians: Co. Roman Soldiers Billeted/Capernaum > Herod Antipas

Jesus Fame Reached into Roman Garrison > Centurion even Convinced

vs. 2-5 2 Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. 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"

Worthy of God's Mercy > Common Thot THEN & NOW even in Church

Built New Wing Hospital > Cancer Research Center > Homes for Haiti

Maybe for POLITICAL Advantage > Jews very Difficult People to Rule

Concern for AILING SLAVE? Perhaps PITY, Perhaps PRAGMATISM

Good Slave: Faithful MACHINE > DEPENDED on his Daily OUTPUT

At least HUMANE, Wealthy, PIOUS > Probably BETTER than MOST

1 of Best Sinners in all CAPERNAUM: Praised by OTHER SINNERS

b. Biased When U R Worthy > RIGHT to be BIASED Agnst those NOT

Ch 6 – SHARKS in Water – CIRCLING – Eager to See BLOOD of Jesus

JUDGMENT in their Hearts – THEY were sitting on JUDGMENT Seat

v. 37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven"

NOT Against Making Value Judgments > We are COMMANDED TO
 HOW Else to DISCERN Good from Bad FRUIT? Decisions of Daily Life
 Parents: Guide Children/ Teachers: Evaluate Students / Judges: Verdicts
 Jesus NOT Against Common Sense, Analytic Ability, or Law Courts
 JUDGING = Unfair, Untrue Analysis of Others / WRONG Standard
 We tend to be HARD on OTHERS and EASY on OURSELVES

c. Blind > When YOU are Self-Worthy, others Unworthy, Hard to SEE

v. 39 He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?"

Blind People > Keen Sense of Direction > Admire Courage to Live Life
 NOT 1st we'd Hire as AIRPLANE PILOTS or WILDERNESS GUIDES
 Jesus to Pharisees: "Woe to you, blind guides!" Matthew 23.16

BLIND GUIDES lead STUDENTS & SOCIETY into the DITCH

Ancient World: Purpose of Teaching Disciple, Make Competent Teacher
 BOOKS COSTLY – LIBRARIES RARE – INTERNET was BLOCKED
 PRIMARY, OFTEN ONLY – RESOURCE was TEACHER's Knowledge
 Fully Trained: Get Out All they KNOW --- PRIDE to say GO BEYOND

v. 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Huge Responsibility of Being Teacher > Only Link to KNOWLEDGE
 Religious Leaders more LIKELY to be JUDGMENTAL of OTHERS
 TEACHING Right Thing Not Nullify our duty to DO the Right Thing
 Responsibility of Disciples make MORE Disciples: Lead at HIGH Level
 NO ONE can LEAD others unless they're WILLING TO BE LEAD
 CALL to INTEGRITY > No CONFLICT between what you SAY and DO
 Cannot LEAD OTHERS to where we have NOT BEEN OURSELVES
 Be Careful who we FOLLOW > Only WORD of God is ALWAYS True
 More we Strive be Like Master / More realize how FALL SHORT of Him
 Notion of Self-WORTH, Being Good Enough in Yourself: False Teaching

2. Unworthy because of my Sins

a. Honest v 6 Jesus went with them. NOT Expecting to see Saint, Worthy

Jesus Went to MAKE Him Worthy: Saw him Moving in Right Direction!

vs. 6,7 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.

Imagine?: Roman Military Officer to Poor Jewish Rabbi “not worthy”

Oppressor humbles self before one of those his army was OPPRESSING

Hebrews claimed he was Worthy > Heart Cried Out “UNWORTHY!”

Sense of UNWORTHINESS is SIGN of FAITH

John Baptizer: "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie" Lk 3.16

b. Humorous Image intended Funny but Message is Deeply Serious

v. 41 "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

Illustration Sometimes used by Rabbi's > Should make listener Laugh

Even More Funny – We think Other People's Sins are Big & Obvious

& OUR Own Sins so INCONSEQUENTIAL they're BARELY Noticeable

I May have Small Speck in my Eye – But you have Support BEAM (lit.)

May be PORNOGRAPHY > But I only look at it Once a Week

May be GOSSIP > But I thought they Needed to Know It

May be I Yelled at Her > But at Least I Did not HIT HER

Like Rearview MIRROR of Car > Objects LARGER than they APPEAR

Specks / Support Beams > TWISTED Sense of Proportion of our SIN

v. 42 42 How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

FIX self 1st > Only Way SEE Well ENOUGH to TRULY HELP Another

c. Heart > BIG PROBLEM we CANNOT Fix OTHERS or OURSELVES

v. 43 no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does bad tree bear good fruit”

Cannot Produce RIGHT FRUIT if you are WRONG KIND of TREE

v. 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

FIGS & GRAPES often grew Together in Palestine / Ever Present Thorns

Your FRUIT is like your SIGNATURE – Seen and Measured by All

SAD Truth > Many UNbelievers have BETTER Fruits than BELIEVERS!

1) Fruit bearing Long Process – See Not Snapshot but Time-Lapse Photo

Look at Entire Life & OVERALL Result – Not Just ONE MOMENT!

2) TRUE Salvation yield SOME TRUE Fruit / Evidence of God IN US!

Abide in TRUE Vine of Jesus means CANNOT HELP but BEAR FRUIT!

Connection will have Consequences > POWER is ON, LIFE will FLOW!

3) Call to SELF Exam: Fruit Inspector NOT Spiritual Gift or Church Offi

v. 45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

HEART > Not Physical ORGAN but SPIRITUAL CORE of Being

Our TONGUE is the SOUND SYSTEM of the HEART

3. Made Worthy by my Savior

a. Amazing Love Love of God is even for Your Enemy > ROME

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19.10

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6.36

v. 38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Applies Rabbinic Saying > FORGIVEN People are OPEN HEARTED

Grain Vendor in Ancient Bazaar: Measures Grain in Fold of Apron on Lap

Packing Grain in Container, Shaking it, Settles, Make More, Overflows

God gives Mercy like Ice Cream > Packed tight HUGE, FULL SCOOPS!

GENEROUS People will EXPERIENCE God’s GENEROSITY

If we live to give, God will see to it that we receive; but if we live to get, God will see to it that we lose.
Warren Wiersbe

b. Authority v. 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"

Man got Many Things Done w/out BEING PRESENT > AUTHORITY

Military Officer commands SOLDIERS // Jesus Commands DISEASES!

Centurion seems to KNOW more than he SHOULD!

1998 in KZ > Director of Seminary > Soviet Context – Powerful!

Title = "Boy for BEATING!" when GOV'T wants to BLAME Someone
In Seminary My NAME IMPORTANT heard in Russian, Kazakh, Korean

"Mark Blair says DO THIS and DO THAT"

Weekend > New Security Guard, Not Let me in Gate "Mark Blair says so!

c . Allegiance v. 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."

Now Movie Director Luke pulls BACK CAMERA – Wide Angle View

1 on 1 Encounter > Really Conversation in the midst of CROWDS

Jesus – & Luke – wants THEM & US to Know Importance of FAITH

Only ONE OTHER Time Gospels tell us JESUS MARVELS!!

"I TELL YOU!" > Hey Guys, Don't MISS THIS!! THIS IS BIG NEWS!

Humanity of Jesus seen in HIS ASTONISHMENT at Faith of Centurion

Gentile – Outshines Jews in area of THEIR Specialization – FAITH

Outsider Wins God's APPROVAL – Son of Kingdom are EXCLUDED

Faith Not just Feeling or Irrational, BLIND LEAP > Basis of FACT

Challenge to US, How is OUR Faith? / Roman Little Spiritual Knowledge

NOT Own BIBLE – No CHURCH – Not 2000 yrs of Church HISTORY

Need to PRAY "Lord INCREASE our FAITH!" --- At Least I DO!

v. 46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Closes Sermon: Call to DO Something About HIS Words 'to do' 5 x's

This point in Luke: ONLY 2 – Peter & Leprous Man Called Jesus 'Lord'

Jesus anticipating Final Day when Whole World must call Him LORD

His Words = God's Words > Response Determines Eternal DESTINY

Teaching of Jesus only Truly Understood when OBEYED & APPLIED

Calling Someone LORD > ADMIT they DESERVE your ALLEGIANCE

v. 47,48 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

Jesus TEACHING is FOUNDATION of HOUSE of our LIVES

v. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

Jesus > 2 Builders, 2 Buildings --- 2 Radically Different BENEFITS

1 Built on Truth of JESUS – 1 Built on NOTHING / ROCK or SAND?

Jesus: Apply yourself to apply my Teaching, Only Stand the Tests of Life

ONE Message > Many Pictures – Judges, Blind Men, Trees, Foundations

God LOOKING at your CHARACTER and your CONDUCT

v 10 when those...returned to the house, they found the servant well.

NOTICED > Way LUKE tells story, CENTURION NEVER APPEARS

NEVER told he SEES JESUS or SPEAKS DIRECTLY to HIM

this would encourage members of Gentile churches who had not seen Jesus, but received the gospel through Jewish messengers Leon Morris

Perhaps Greatest Miracle in Gospels > Jesus Never SEES Sick Servant

Never Touches – Never Speaks to Him > Commands Disease to Depart

HEALING Work of Jesus NOT LIMITED to FORMAT or FORMULA

Received Email > Prayer to Remove Cancer > SPECIFIC Healing Words

If you PRAY These Words You'll get Better, Forget Words, Deleted it!

My Jesus is Bigger than Words I Have to Use to Unleash His POWER!

Prophecy of Simeon FULFILLED: Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised...your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles..." Luke 2.28-32

Wide Ranging Mission of Jesus > Even to those who Never Heard or Seen
 Learn from Him & OF Him for Eternity > Inexhaustible WISDOM
 Cannot SEE Him– HEAR Him– FEEL Touch of Hand: He is HERE Now
 Creator of Universe – Holy Lamb of God – King of Kings, Lord of Lords
 Slain for our Sins on Cross, Raised from Death for Justification! Come!!

Psalm 34 Taste and See That the LORD Is Good

Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.

I will bless the LORD at all times; **his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

My soul makes its boast in the LORD; **let the humble hear and be glad.**

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, **and let us exalt his name together!**

I sought the LORD, and he answered me **and delivered me from all my fears.**

Those who look to him are radiant, **and their faces shall never be ashamed.**

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him **and saved him out of all his troubles.**

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!**

Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, **for those who fear him have no lack!**

The young lions suffer want and hunger; **but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.**

Come, O children, listen to me; **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

What man is there who desires life **and loves many days, that he may see good?**
 Keep your tongue from evil **and your lips from speaking deceit.**

Turn away from evil and do good; **seek peace and pursue it.**

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous **and his ears toward their cry.**

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, **to cut off the memory of them from the earth.**

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears **and delivers them out of all their troubles.**

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted **and saves the crushed in spirit.**

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, **but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**
He keeps all his bones; **not one of them is broken.**

Affliction will slay the wicked, **and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.**

The LORD redeems the life of his servants; **none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**