

Steve Greenberg's Handout, Sunday Morning, November 16th, 2025

Week 17: Luke 7:18-50 Religious Leaders Reject Gods Will

Luke 7:18-23 John the Baptist Questions are Answered (Parallel passage: Matt. 11:2-6)

John the Baptist Sends His Disciples to Jesus Asking if He is the Messiah

Luk 7:18 Then the disciples of John reported to him (in prison) concerning all these things (refers to Jesus teachings and miracles).

Luk 7:19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus (Lord), saying, "Are You the Coming One (the Messiah), or do we look for another (expect someone else)?"

John clearly understood Jesus was the Messiah

Jhn 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Jhn 1:36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

The Messiah is coming on a donkey, and will come a second time to rule over the nations forever

Zec 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King (Messianic King) is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly (humble and afflicted, in submission to His Father) and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zec 9:10 I will cut off the (war) chariot from Ephraim And the (war) horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea (endless), And from the River (Euphrates) to the ends of the earth.'

Luk 7:20 When the men (two disciples) had come to Him(Jesus), they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One (the Messiah), or do we look for another?' "

Even with all John saw and knew he still questioned was Jesus the Messiah?

The general thinking was when the Messiah came He would rise up the Jewish people and overthrow the corrupt Roman authorities and bring judgment on evildoers.

Luk 7:21 And that very hour He(Jesus) cured (healed) many of infirmities (diseases, sicknesses), afflictions and evil spirits; and to many blind He(Jesus) gave sight.

Luk 7:22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see (receive sight), the lame walk, the lepers (various skin diseases) are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised (to life), the poor have the gospel preached to them.

When the Messiah comes He will do miracles. The days of salvation told by Isaiah have begun, even though they will not be completed until Christ returns to the earth

Isa 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, ...

Isa 35:5 (God's word tells us when Jesus comes) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Psa 146:7 Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.

Psa 146:8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous.

Psa 146:9 The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

Isa 29:18 In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

Isa 29:19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the LORD, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.

Luk 7:23 "And blessed is he (anyone), who is not offended (stumble) because of Me (or God blesses those who do not turn away because of me)."

Psa 2:12 Kiss (pay respect, worship) the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Luke 7:24-30 Jesus Praises John (Parallel passage: Matt. 11:7-15)

Luk 7:24 When the messengers of John had departed, He(Jesus) began to speak to the multitudes (crowds) concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? (I.e. something too ordinary to be of any interest)

Luk 7:25 "But what did you go out to see (or what were you expecting to see)? A man clothed in soft garments (expensive clothes, not suited for the harsh wilderness)? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled (or splendid clothing) and live in luxury are in kings' courts (or royal palaces).

Luk 7:26 "But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet (John was unique among the prophets because he was sent to prepare the hearts of the people for the immediate disclosure of their Messiah).

Luk 7:27 "This is he(John the Baptist) of whom it is written (Scriptures refer too): 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' (Mal 3:1)

Mal 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

Luk 7:28 "For I say to you (or tell you, listen up), among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

John is seen as the greatness as his role was to prepared the way for Jesus the Messiah.

Quote from David Guzik from BLB website

But he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he: Though John was great, he was not born again under the New Covenant. This is because he lived and died before the completion of Jesus' work at the cross and empty tomb. Therefore, he did not enjoy the benefits of the New Covenant (1 Corinthians 11:25 , 2 Corinthians 3:6 , Hebrews 8:6-13).
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Luk 7:29 And when all the people heard Him(Jesus**), even the tax collectors justified God (**acknowledged and praised God for his justice**), having been baptized with the baptism of John.**

Luk 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers (experts in religion**) rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him (**refusing John's baptism, was rejecting Gods will there is no neutral ground, in the same way Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me, if you don't believe and trust in Jesus as the only way, then you reject Gods will, Jhn 14:6).****

Those who had been baptized by John believed Jesus' words.

Gospel of Matthew adds some details

Mat 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Mat 11:13 "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

Paul's Testimony

Act 20:24 "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the **gospel of the grace of God (Paul wanted to faithful to the end).**

Act 20:25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God (Gospel), will see my face no more.

Act 20:26 "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

Act 20:27 "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Act 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Act 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified (born again).

Luke 7:31-35 Jesus Criticizes His Generation (Parallel passage: Matt. 11:16-19)

Luk 7:31 And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken (or compare) the men (people) of this generation (This generation refers to the leaders that reject Gods will both through John and Jesus. They are like children who do not want to play with anyone who only want what is best for them), and what are they like (or how can I describe them, here is an example)?

Luk 7:32 "They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: 'We played the flute (wedding songs) for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you (we sang a dirge, as if funeral), And you did not weep (you did not react to anything did).'

Quote from Chuck Smith 3000 series

Jesus no doubt had observed the children in the marketplaces, they are playing their various games, let's pretend, and let's pretend it's a wedding. We play the pipes but you didn't want to dance. So let's play funeral, and we'll wail and howl, but you didn't want to play funeral.

Luk 7:33 "For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.'

Mat 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

Mat 3:2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Mat 3:3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' "

Mat 3:4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts (grasshoppers) and wild honey.

Luk 1:13 But the angel said to him(Zachariah), "Do not be afraid, Zachariah (or Zacharias), for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John (the Baptist).

Luk 1:14 "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

Luk 1:15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Luk 1:16 "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

Luk 7:34 "The Son of Man (a title Jesus used for himself) has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look (at him), a glutton (habitually overindulges in food) and a winebibber (excessive alcohol-drinker, drunkard), a friend of tax collectors and sinners (including non-observant & non-religious Jews)!'

Luk 15:2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

Luk 7:35 "But wisdom (true Godly wisdom) is justified (vindicated and shown to be right) by all her children (or by the truth & fruit of their followers, in this case those that are following John & Jesus)."

Luke 7:36-39 A Women Anoints Jesus' Feet

Luk 7:36 Then one of the Pharisees (Simon, v40) asked Him(Jesus) to eat with him (Jesus loved to eat with others). And He(Jesus) went to the Pharisee's house (in Galilee), and sat down (took His place & reclined, laid sideways on his elbow at a low table) to eat.

Jesus was not only a friend to tax collectors and sinners, He was willing to meet with the Pharisees if they were willing to listen. Many meet with Jesus to judge Him, find fault and figure a way to kill Him

Pharisees: A small but well educated influential group of common people connected to local synagogues. They emphasized observance of their extra biblical traditions and the law as the path to righteousness and being Godly. Most Pharisees opposed Jesus, but some became believers (John 7:50; 19:38–40)

Luk 7:37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner (lived a known sinful life), when she knew (learned) that Jesus sat (reclined) at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil (perfume, her precious position)

When a Rabbi (leader or teacher) was visiting in someone's home or adjacent area, it was acceptable for uninvited guests to come and listen to the conversation, usually the front door was open)

Luk 7:38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping (continued crying, lots of tears); and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them (His feet) with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil (she smothered His feet with kisses respectfully and poured oil anointing His feet showing her thankfulness, affection and submission).

There were apparently two anointing's of Jesus, one early in His ministry and one at the end. This one in the home of Simon the Pharisee (identified in v 40) in the area of Galilee by an unnamed woman (known sinner, immoral women), and the other in the home of Simon the Leper in Bethany, by Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus. The anointing in Bethany preceded the triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matt 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8).

Luk 7:39 Now when the Pharisee (**Simon**) who had invited Him(**Jesus**) saw this, he spoke to himself (**in his mind**), saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner (**known for her sinful lifestyle, immoral women**)."

The Holy Spirit revealed to Jesus what Simon was thinking.
Remember God knows what you are thinking? Meditate on things that are good, edifying
Jewish tradition taught to touch others made them unclean

Luke 7:40-50 The Parable of the Two Debtors

Luk 7:40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Simon, I have something to say to you.**" So he said (**Simon replied**), "**Teacher, say it.**"

Luk 7:41 "**There was a certain creditor (moneylender) who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty (A denarius, a Roman silver coin, worth about a laborer's daily wage, Matt. 20:2).**

Mat 18:26 "The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

Mat 18:27 "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

Mat 18:28 "But that servant (which was forgiven acted wickedly) went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

Mat 18:30 "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

Mat 18:31 "So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

Mat 18:32 "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

Mat 18:34 "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

Mat 18:35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Luk 7:42 "And when they had nothing with which to repay (no means to repay), he freely forgave them both (he graciously cancelled their debts). Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

Luk 7:43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more (the one who had the larger debt canceled)." And He(Jesus) said to him, "You have rightly judged."

Luk 7:44 Then He(Jesus) turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house (cultural understanding, you failed to extend to Me the usual courtesies shown to a guest); you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head (demonstrating her love & thankfulness).

Luk 7:45 "You gave Me no (welcome) kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

Rom 16:16 Greet one another (fellow believers) with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

Luk 7:46 "You did not anoint My head with oil (ordinary oil), but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil (expensive perfume oil).

Luk 7:47 "Therefore I say to you(Simon), her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

For she loved much refers how much she has been forgiven (a basic principle, this does not mean that you have to be an excessive sinner to love much). It's about our attitude towards God, we all of us are sinners, whether we owe five thousand or fifty thousand, we are all sinners. It doesn't make any difference if you're a good sinner or a bad sinner, you're a sinner.

1Tim 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

1Tim 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Luk 7:48 Then He(Jesus) said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Luk 7:49 And those (the other guest, invited) who sat (reclined) at the table with Him(Jesus) began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

Luk 5:21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Luk 5:22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts?

Luk 5:23 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'?

Luk 5:24 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Luk 7:50 Then He(Jesus) said to the woman, "**Your faith (in me) has saved you. Go in peace (the guilt of sin is gone).**"

Jesus said your faith has saved you. Her faith is shown and has evidence by the way she honored Jesus and washed his feet. Does your life have evidence that you love and worship Jesus?

Your faith: Gospel, Jesus saves

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

1Cor 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: (The Gospel) that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1Cor 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Quote from Pasto Chuck 3,000 series

One of the characteristics of sin is that it leaves your mind in a constant turmoil (**sin blinds and separates a person from God**). When you are living in sin, there is that consciousness of sin that creates just an unrest in your soul. You know you're doing wrong. You know you shouldn't be doing it. And as you're doing it, you're miserable because you know you shouldn't be. And yet the flesh is drawing you to it and so you find yourself being torn, torn by the lust of the flesh and torn by the conviction of the Holy Spirit. And you find yourself in this miserable state of just being ripped to pieces.

But once you've forsaken the sin and found forgiveness, what peace there is. What glorious peace (**and rest there is in Jesus**).

Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest.” And then He added, “You shall find rest for your soul” (Matthew 11:28, 29). The glorious consequence of being forgiven your sins is that glorious rest and peace, “Go in peace.” Tonight (or today) if you’re struggling with sin, if you’re in a battle and you know that misery of being torn by the desires of your flesh and by the tug of the Spirit, you can go in peace tonight. You can resolve that whole issue. You can surrender that to Jesus Christ tonight and He will forgive. “If we confess our sins, He’s faithful and just to forgive us, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). He’ll cleanse you tonight and you can go in peace. Even right now where you’re sitting, you can just ask the Lord to help you, to take away the sin. Right now you can ask for His strength and power over that sin that’s tearing you up and ripping you up and you can find peace and rest in Jesus.

End: