

Humbling Approaching Christ

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

HUMBLING APPROACHING CHRIST

Key Text: Luke 7:1-11

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Thank you Father for this opportunity ,as we fellowship in Your Word, may You speak to us in Your wisdom and give us understanding, in Jesus name Amen.

Study

I welcome you all to today's study in the name of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Peace, mercy and grace from Our Lord Jesus Christ to you all. The study before us is somehow broad, and it would be good if we follow carefully till the end even as The Lord speaks to us by Himself. Praise God! Let's open our Bibles to the book of **Luke 7:1-11**

[1]Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

[2]And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

[3]And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

[4]And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

[5]For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

[6]Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

[7]Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

[8]For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

[9]When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

[10]And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

[11]And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

The Lord Jesus Christ just-concluded His saying about building one's house on The Rock by not only being the hearer of The Word but also being the doer of such Words. That's how we can only have a firm foundation in Him and all these were said in the hearing of the people, that is, they are expected to hear the sayings as it was and not only a duty applicable to His disciples but to all those who delight in hearing Him, then he moved into Capernaum where most of His mighty works were done, So we read of a certain centurion, more like a general of the army in our days, whose servant was sick not only was that servant of his sick but also ready to die, it was a sickness unto death and he was dear to the centurion which made him resolve at taking quick action concerning the servant's health that he should not die for he values him so much. He knew how helpful this servant has been to him knowing that what things the hand of that servant finds doing he does with his might, and him dying would make the knowledge and wisdom of such helpful servant useless in the grave where he goes. **Ecclesiastes 9:10** *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.* So he quickly came to a conclusion to send the elders of Jews to The Lord Jesus Christ to come and heal his servant, though he being a man in authority yet he could not heal his dearly beloved servant by himself, this shows that there are limitations to earthly powers no matter how great it is. He decided to send the elders of the Jews to Christ because he might have thought that him being a gentile going to The Lord Jesus Christ might get him shunned by Him, so

he thought it wise to send the elders of the Jews to The Lord unlike the canaanite woman whose daughter was possessed and came directly to The Lord Jesus Christ that He should cast The demon out of her daughter.

Matthew 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. And when the elders came to Jesus Christ they begged him earnestly saying that the one whom He should do this was deserving **Luke 7:4** And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: the man sent the elders of the Jews to Jesus and they got there and gave a good report about him to The Lord. Though being a gentile, he kept a good report among the people, though in a position of authority he maintained a good report and relationship with people, he was not spoken evil of as an oppressor or the troubler of the community. Beloved Brethren, what reports are people giving to God daily about your conducts? at times those in authority need men whom they might have counted as of lesser importance in the society. He kept a good reputation among the Jews and thus he was able to speak to them to help him meet Jesus Christ which this ones did heartily.

As Christians we should endeavour to live peaceably with everyone around us no matter their tribe, cultural background, religion, family, ideas, no matter where they come from we should be able to live peacefully just as we are being commanded in the book of **Hebrews 12:14 KJV FOLLOW PEACE WITH ALL MEN, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:** we should learn to follow peace with everyone around us and also those who we come across, not because we want to receive something from them but because it is the Lord's command. Although this man was a gentile, he had faith in Jesus Christ, we must learn from this man to always keep good reputation wherever we dwell, be it among our people or not we should do to others what we'd have them do to us, the elders of the Jews came to The Lord Jesus and said he was deserving, they went further to tell Him what he did for them. They said that he loves their nation and what was the proof of that love? He built them a synagogue!. This agrees with the teachings of The Lord that we should not love only in words but in deeds too. Assuming he did not build that synagogue what would have proved his love for

their nation? Those elders recognised the building of a synagogue as one which it's relevance would not only affect the citizens personally but the whole nation. As Churches in every village, town, city, and nation should be seen as a blessing while the church should also prove to be so wherever it is established, promoting godly virtues in the lives of it's citizens which would eventually turn the country around but when the church loses its savour its no longer seen as a blessing and a show of love for the country but a burden and an irrelevant entity. It is easier for people who are charitable to be pleaded on behalf of when they may not be in position to do so. This was the same with Dorcas, the people began to show Peter the clothes she made for them making him know why she should not die at the time and this moved Peter to raise her from the dead. **Acts 9:36,39 KJV** *Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. [39] Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.*

We should try as much as possible to follow peace with all men no matter who they are, we must not hate anyone or keep malice with anyone for it is not the nature of Christ to keep enemies, the more they reviled Him, the more He prayed for them. It's a shame to hear professing Christians say that they hate a particular person or set of people. Some people cannot associate with those who are not of the same church with them, this is what Christ taught us, we should be able to live our lives in ways that promotes good neighborliness, some sees everyone around them as sinners that should not even be greeted. This is wrong! **Luke 7:6 KJV** *Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:* The centurion sees Jesus Christ as a prophet that is why he could send for Him in the first place, Jesus Christ got close to his house and he sent men to The Lord to tell Him not to bother coming into his house because he sees himself as unworthy to have Him come under his roof. The centurion recognised his sinful state and would not allow a prophet as holy as Jesus Christ to come into his house, a gentile for that matter. **Luke 7:7 KJV** *Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. "I did not think myself worthy" was*

the reason he gave. Despite the money he had, he single-handedly built a synagogue possibly because the one there was old or it was too small, he built another one! to complete any building no matter how small it is must consume a reasonable amount of money, he did not go to The Lord with the mindset of after all *"I built a synagogue for them, He should be able to do something for me in return"* he did not think like that, he was humble enough to come to Jesus Christ as the needy, lowly in spirit, devoid of haughtiness.

How do you and I come to Jesus Christ, do we come to Him on the basis of what we have done for Him to gratify and have our selfish desires met? Or we tremble before Him, putting pride aside and putting on a meek and humble spirit before Him. Some are fond of something, when they do good to people, they seek for ways to get those good deed returned back to them and whenever they have any good come to them they see it as an entitlement and not something gotten out of God's immeasurable grace. We should see whatever people do to us to better our lives as a privilege and not as an entitlement which we must get from them because of the good we have done for them in the past; by this we would attract the attention of The Lord more to ourselves. For The Lord takes more cognizance of the lowly in heart than the haughty, for He resists them. **James 4:6 KJV But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.** The centurion being a soldier and not just an ordinary soldier but a general who is well respected by many, might have thought it compulsory that the Lord came to his house because of his position in the society, and might have even suggested to Christ in what way/method he wanted the healing of a servant to be done just like Naaman who was displeased when Elijah did not come and wave his hands on him.

2 Kings 5:11 KJV But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. He already had a picture of how his healing should take place. He esteemed himself so high that he could have missed his blessing, right from his words, he deduced that he came all the way from Syria to see Elisha and Elisha refused to honour him by coming out to attend to him that is how those who are haughty do think, they think about their sacrifice and then think they deserve honour for the

sacrifices they have made. The centurion did not see the coming of The Lord into his house as a privilege for The Lord, saying "at least He would be having an opportunity to meet me who is one of the most prominent men of the land and peradventure have the opportunity to seat at the table in my house" like some do see people coming to them as a privilege for those people and not for them. We should learn to see the good in others and honour them for it, we should not feel as if we are mostly needed for there is no one useless and cannot be blessed by The Lord. This centurion said he did not think himself worthy to have Christ come under his roof, what a great level of humility, he placed his reputation, his position, good deeds aside and still put on a lowly garment, humbling himself before The Lord, he then pleaded with Him to Speak The Word and it will work, for he has a great level of faith in The Lord. Now making an illustration of what someone that possesses such level of faith in him would say, he believed that the Words of Christ carries authority which cannot be contradicted.

This thing made Christ marvel **Luke 7:9 KJV** When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. That He had to turn around to tell the crowd following Him about the Great faith of this man. For crowd always followed The Lord wherever he went. A gentile exercising such great Faith, which those who are children of God do not possess and at that very moment the servant got healed. We also must put on total Faith in The Lord Jesus Christ, we do not need to think God favours anyone than us, for we are one in Christ and He would prove Himself to all those who put their trusts in Him for He who was at work then when he was physically present on earth is still the One at work now and very much effective just like then, we should only increase our faith in Him, coming humbly before Him and we will be surprised as impossibilities becomes possibilities for us.

Thank you Soo much for your time! God will give us Grace to put our total trust in Him Jesus Name(Amen)!

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