

Luke 7:1-35 Great Faith, Prophets and Prophecy

Messiah's Ministry encountered people of a variety of backgrounds, belief systems, creeds, cultures, lifestyles, and races. People came from all over the surrounding regions to be delivered from unclean spirits, to be healed, ministered to, and taught alongside the Messiah's 12 chosen Apostles and His multitude of Disciples.

In this portion of Luke, Messiah encounters faith on a level that had not been seen in all of Israel. He demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit in ways that caused the people, who witnessed it, to declare Him as a great Prophet. Messiah then highlighted the life of the greatest Prophet and prophecy which exposed the hearts of the religious leaders.

Lk 7:1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

The Audience of the People

- The 12 Apostles
- The multitude of His Disciples
- The people from the various regions round about who had come to hear Him, be healed by Him, and those who came to be delivered from unclean spirits.

Lk 7:2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

Lk 7:3 And when he heard of Yeshua, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

Elder – **4245 πρεσβύτερος** presbuteros {pres-boo'-ter-os}

Meaning: 1) elder, of age, 1a) the elder of two people 1b) advanced in life, an elder, a senior 1b1) forefathers 2) a term of rank or office 2a) among the Jews

Usage: AV - elder 64, old man 1, eldest 1, elder woman 1; 67

According to Luke's version, the Centurion sent two different groups to Yeshua: the elders and friends, later in Verse 6.

Matthew wrote that the Centurion came to Yeshua and spoke to Him personally.

Mt 8:5 And when Yeshua was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

Mt 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

Mt 8:7 And Yeshua saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

Mt 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

Mt 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*.

Mt 8:10 When Yeshua heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Mt 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mt 8:13 And Yeshua said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and **as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee**. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Lk 7:4 And when they came to Yeshua, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

When the elders of the Jews came to Yeshua, their reasonings for why they thought the Centurion deserved to have his request answered were because of the Centurion's love of Israel and his gifts to build their synagogue.

Lk 7:5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

Lk 7:6 Then Yeshua 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:

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

Lk 7:8 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*.

Lk 7:9 When Yeshua 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.

A lesson on great faith plain and simple:

Words, heart, and actions must all be in alignment.

The Centurion was a man under authority.

Centurion - **1543 ἑκατοντάρχης** hekatontarches {hek-at-on-tar'-khace} or hekatontarchos {hek-at-on'-tar-khos}

Meaning: 1) an officer in the Roman army

Usage: AV - centurion 21; 21

Scripture does not tell us about Roman military rank and file, although it gives us clues.

A Centurion was an Officer who had higher ranking officers over him and lower ranking soldiers under him.

The Centurion's great faith was based on military rank and file.

- A man under authority
- Men under him



One must be submitted to authority to operate in authority.

Yeshua operated in authority and power under YeHoVaH. The authority structure of the Kingdom is revealed as a military type structure: YeHoVaH the King of Glory and the Lord of Hosts.

Ps 24:10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

The Lord of Hosts is used 284 times in Scripture.

Hosts – **06635** צבא tsaba' {tsaw-baw'} or (fem.) צבָאָה tseba'ah {tseb-aw-aw'}

Meaning: 1) that which goes forth, army, war, warfare, host 1a) army, host 1a1) host (of organised army) 1a2) host (of angels) 1a3) of sun, moon, and stars 1a4) of whole creation 1b) war, warfare, service, go out to war 1c) service

Usage: AV - host 393, war 41, army 29, battle 5, service 5, appointed time 3, warfare 2, soldiers 1, company 1, misc 5; 485

Ex 6:26 These *are* that Aaron and Moses, to whom the LORD said, Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies.

Armies – **06635** צבא tsaba' {tsaw-baw'} or (fem.) צבָאָה tseba'ah {tseb-aw-aw'}

Meaning: 1) that which goes forth, army, war, warfare, host 1a) army, host 1a1) host (of organised army) 1a2) host (of angels) 1a3) of sun, moon, and stars 1a4) of whole creation 1b) war, warfare, service, go out to war 1c) service

Usage: AV - host 393, war 41, army 29, battle 5, service 5, appointed time 3, warfare 2, soldiers 1, company 1, misc 5; 485

Ro 9:29 And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

Jas 5:4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

Sabaoth – **4519 Σαβαώθ** sabaoth {sab-ah-owth'}

Meaning: 1) "Lord of Sabaoth" 1a) Lord of the armies of Israel, as those who are under the leadership and protection of YeHoVaH maintain his cause in war

Usage: AV - sabaoth 2; 2

The word superpowers are military powers. Commander in Chief controls the military.

Commander in Chief controls the military.

YeHoVaH is the Commander in Chief.

Yeshua is over the military.

The Five-Fold Ministry could be viewed as the Officer's structure.

Soldiers are the Body of Messiah.

2Ti 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Messiah Yeshua.

2Ti 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Yeshua Messiah.

2Ti 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Yeshua is our authority.

Apostles were selected from amongst the Disciples indicating an authority structure. Paul's ranking:

Apostles

Prophets

Evangelists

Pastors

Teachers

You cannot operate in authority if you are not submitted to authority.

Lk 7:10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Lk 7:11 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.

Lk 7:12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

Lk 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Lk 7:14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare *him* stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

Bier – 4673 σορός soros {sor-os'}

Meaning: 1) an urn or receptacle for keeping the bones of the dead 2) the funeral couch or bier on which the Jews carried their dead forth to burial

Usage: AV - bier 1; 1

The bier apparently was an open container, unlike a closed casket, for the boy sat up.

Lk 7:15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

Lk 7:16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

This event caused the people to acknowledge Yeshua as a great Prophet.

Lk 7:17 And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.

Lk 7:18 And the disciples of John showed him of all these things.

Lk 7:19 And John calling *unto him* two of his disciples sent *them* to Yeshua, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

Lk 7:20 When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

Lk 7:21 And in that same hour he cured many of *their* infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many *that were* blind he gave sight.

Lk 7:22 Then Yeshua answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

Lk 7:23 And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Lk 7:24 And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

Lk 7:25 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts.

Lk 7:26 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.

How was John more than a Prophet? Yeshua explained that John was a Prophet foretold by the Prophets.

Lk 7:27 This is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Mal 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

John was the last Prophet under the Old Covenant. John proclaimed the Kingdom of YeHoVaH. The Kingdom Gospel had not been heard of or declared until John.

When the Kingdom of Heaven was declared by John, hundreds even thousands came to John to be baptized that they might enter into this Kingdom he spoke about. Many came, except for the Pharisees.

Lk 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Lk 7:29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans/tax collectors, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

The people, who received John's message and was baptized by him, acknowledged John's Ministry and message of repentance.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law rejected John's message and Ministry and refused to repent and be baptized.

Lk 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

Lk 7:31 And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?

Yeshua's statement brings to bear that His Ministry and John's Ministry were rejected by the religious leaders although they were two totally different Ministries and presented from two different angles.

Lk 7:32 They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

Lk 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.

Lk 7:34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

People had rejected both John and Yeshua, but for different reasons, like children who refuse to play either a fun and exciting game or a sad and depressing one.

They would not associate with John when he followed the strictest of rules or with Yeshua when He freely associated with all types of people.

Lk 7:35 But wisdom is justified of all her children.

Justified – 1344 δικαιώω dikaiōō {dik-ah-yo'-o} **Meaning:** 1) to render righteous or such he ought to be 2) to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered 3) to declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be

Usage: AV - justify 37, be freed 1, be righteous 1, justifier 1; 40

A spiritually wise person could see that the Ministries of both John and Yeshua were godly, despite their differences.