

[Wisdom is Justified] / Gospel of Luke 7:1 – 35

~ Healing from a distance is what we observed Jesus doing way back in the eighth chapter of Matthew. Our Spiritual Safari spent a considerable amount of type and space when we were there, so we will move right through this section of Scripture in this report. If you are new to our expedition, I can only suggest you go back and read all nine previous reports from this Gospel record, because we are too deep into Luke to catch up without truly and properly understanding where we came from. In this report, at verse eleven; we have information that is only recorded by Dr. Luke. Therefore, we are going to begin our commentary there....

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 shouldst 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.

~ This report from our safari brings us to a restoration of life. To be absolutely accurate, the raising of the dead by Jesus in the Bible are not resurrections as we think of the proper use of terminology for that word. What Jesus did in these instances in the Bible is restore people back to THIS life – in their old body. Tradition says that when Jesus raised Lazarus, Lazarus asked if he would have to die again - and Jesus told him that he would. Tradition also says Lazarus never smiled from that day forward. I can only imagine the doorway of death being entered one time is more than enough? Up to this present day, only one Person has ever been resurrected in a glorified body - and that is our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of God says Christ is the firstfruits of them that sleep. When Jesus returns to rapture the church then those of us who are alive will be changed into a resurrected, glorified body; called up in the air with those who have gone before us to be with Him forevermore. That's the body that will never die, by the way. However, all of these instances of the dead being raised in the Bible are illustrations of all importance. They do represent and speak to what resurrection will be for us....

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.

~ This is an unusually sad passage we have in the Bible. The death of this young man is, indeed, tragic. This is the only son of a widowed mother and that meant double the very bad things in her future. We see the Lord Jesus going out to meet the funeral procession. Jesus, we will discover, breaks up every single funeral that He ever went to. My personal feeling is that a

whole lot more people were raised from the dead than the three we have the accounts of; however, those three make a complete, correct and proper illustration of our topic. One was the little girl between a child and a teen; but here is a young man who was in his full vigor of youth; Lazarus, naturally, was an old man – a real senior citizen. All three classifications of life are represented in the Biblical account and all three were restored to life! ~

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

~ Jesus raised this dead man solely for the comfort of a grieving and desperately afraid and lonely mother! The miracle was performed for no other reason. She cried out to God, and He heard her. Notice that Jesus uses the same method every time of speaking directly to them to raise the dead. Remember, it is the voice of Christ that will be LIKE the sound of an archangel; it is going to be Jesus Personally in the air, friends – not some created intelligences sent as representatives from the Heavenlies. That tragic, common, persistent misconception just doesn't happen to be the picture we have of the rapture in the Word of God. The voice that is like a trumpet is HIS voice – no one else's voice.

Jesus did NOT use the same method in all miracles; only when raising the dead did He not deviate. One time He healed just by speaking; another time He made a spit mud pie and sent the man to wash. Then, another time, He simply touched them! We have at least three different methods used for healing – but only one for raising the dead. Those three men certainly started three different denominations, too - you may be sure. One man says all Jesus has to do is speak at you and believe. That man went away singing, "only believe!" The next man says, "... wait a minute; you must have Him touch you." That man went away singing, "the touch of His hand on mine!" This second man believes you have to have some sort of an experience. The third man really could have a legitimate argument, though. This third man would say we have to wash, and he sang, "... shall we gather at the river?" Does this sound like a ridiculously silly illustration? It is ridiculous – and it is silly – but – that's what men have done ever since the day Jesus healed the blind. It seems we are everlastingly and always

arguing the petty points of doctrine. The arguments I see are not even essential as Biblical points at all; the important thing is to have had contact with the Lord Jesus Christ! Have you? ~

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.

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

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.

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

18 And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things.

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

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?

~ **John the Baptist** is a little puzzled at this point, obviously. Even John is questioning Who it is he is supposed to be looking for. We have had this in Matthew and Mark, so we are getting a rather full-orbed view of what this man is really all about. John dressed a little funny, to say the least. Today, we have an overemphasis on clothes and dress, in general. Dress and hair styles have become of the utmost importance in modern day society. Well, if you dress in an unusual way today it might just mean you are a nut! You are probably NOT another John the Baptist; in fact, I highly doubt it. John may have dressed unusually, but the clothes are not what made this man unusual. It was the message and ministry of Christ Jesus by John the Baptist that made the man. This man was called of God and, my friends, you had better make sure you are called of God if you deign wear religious garb.

Many people erroneously feel that if they simply adopt the outward trappings of Christianity then they will be Christians. People think being a Christian means we ought not criticize, and we should never be harsh. They envisage the Christian to be sickeningly naive and stupidly gullible. Most people have quite a list of wrong notions and self-concocted religious philosophies. Well, if being a Christian is just some outward veneer that we put on display then it's nothing but a front, friends. If you do not have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, then there is something radically wrong in your so-called Christian life. Imitating Christ or dressing a certain way is useless; and people will rightly ridicule you for both. Assuming some pious platitude of service is something God absolutely hates, too. You can just write that down.

Worse than that – God laughs at you, my well-meaning friends. Ye must be born again. If you are IN Christ, then you are a new creation. Being a Christian means to have a daily and on-going experience with the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone that is in this safari reading who has that relationship, please raise your hand; so, you may continue with us – or that we may continue on at all. John must have felt misplaced in the New Testament - because he is out of place. John seems to “not belong” here at all. Well, he is the last of the Old Testament prophets, and we find him in the New Testament bridging a yawning gap of silence in Heaven, probably about the space of thirty minutes – or four hundred years – whichever comes first in Heaven! John concludes the illustrious line of prophets following Samuel, Elijah, Elisha and Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Micah and Obadiah.

Christ later told this generation that we are studying that they built tombs for the prophets; but their children would kill said prophets. They inherited the nature of their fathers and John just happened to be, at this time, in prison awaiting execution. See friends, the Scriptures just could not get any more accurate than they are. The voice of John the Baptist will soon be silenced in death. So, we see John languishing in prison now and doubt has captivated his mind. Does that sound familiar to you? A psychological explanation has been offered for the question John had; I find it rather amusing, honestly. The psychologist will reason that John was discouraged,

depressed and dejected by imprisonment; and the only thing wrong with that explanation is that it isn't correct.

See, John had announced the Kingdom and he had renounced the nation Israel as a whole. He had pronounced the coming of the King. John was just a highway road builder for God. John said mountains would be brought low and valleys would be exalted. John identified Jesus as the Messiah saying that Jesus will baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The Lord Jesus has the fan in His hands, my beloved. Christ says He will thoroughly purge the floor. God is going to gather the wheat, but the chaff will be burned with an unquenchable fire. Now, irrespective of your interpretation, I think we will all agree this is strong language. John was not expecting a Sunday school picnic at the beach. John was expecting the Lord Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom in complete glory and power by dashing the rebellion with a rod of iron like a potter's vessel. Well, things weren't exactly happening that way, so it seemed. So, John wants to know exactly Who he IS looking for. Here we see Jesus receiving the men cordially, but Jesus does keep them waiting....

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.

22 Then Jesus 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.

23 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

~ Jesus kept these men waiting for a very definite reason. Jesus then told them to go back and tell John Baptist they had seen the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the Messiah - the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah said the lame would leap and the blind would have their eyes opened. Well, it's difficult to deny the credentials of the Messiah when you have seen Him in action! Verse twenty-three may be the most illuminating statement made from the lips of Jesus. God is asking for your faith when you cannot understand things, friends. Do you REALLY trust Him? I'm sure Jesus was

not moving nearly as fast as John Baptist would have had Him move! However, in the face of intellectual difficulty, Jesus says to you and me, “believe, and ye shall be saved.” While the intelligentsia is awaiting an explanation that has already been given, the message sinks deep into the minds of the hearts that He has chosen. The preaching of the Gospel is foolishness to those who perish. Unto us that are saved it is the very power of God Himself!

Doubting God or asserting atheism is not a sign that you are smart; it’s a sign that you are very foolish – and it’s a clear signal to me that you know very little about anything. It also necessarily means you run with a crowd that is perishing. The learned and crusty professor sits in a dusty musty library, far from human life, and the needs of humanity. These are the men who write about the intellectual difficulties of accepting the Bible on faith and they completely discount the deity of Christ and reject blood redemption at all cost! Well, these same professors can’t solve the little problems on campus – you may be absolutely sure! I could name myriad. See, friends, because man cannot handle modern problems, I am not even partially convinced they know what took place two thousand years ago. I’m going to the grave with the Word of God in my hand and the Lord Jesus Christ in my heart! You may remember an old TRUE story about five atheists in a rubber raft in the Pacific Ocean? They spent twenty days on the face of the water where they each saw God. Not a single one of those men came off of that raft an atheist! Is God going to have to put YOU on a raft in the ocean and bring you to the brink of death for you to earn your graduate degree in life? Most of us would learn more out there afloat for a few weeks than we ever would in a lifetime in a classroom. Well, we probably floated on this subject too long – or maybe we didn’t spend enough time here....

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

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.

~ John Baptist was the wind shaking the reeds – not the other way around. This prophet was not running around in fancy clothes and eating at the finest restaurants in town. We're looking at a very rough and very rugged individual. David was a very rough man of war, too. David wasn't so sure about Solomon, though; because Solomon was, well, a sissy! Solomon was raised in the women's court and he was a soft man, to be sure – dressed in designer suits - riding overly-groomed horses. David wanted Absalom to be the next king but, of course, Absalom was dead by that time as the result of his rebellion. David still would never have made Solomon the king if he hadn't already promised Bathsheba so long ago. David almost waited too long to choose anyone to be the next king, you may recall. Well, there comes a time when you are going to have to make a choice to be a man for the Word of God as a servant of the Lord - or not....

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

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

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.

29 And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

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

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

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.

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

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!

35 But wisdom is justified of all her children.

~ Malachi returns to conclude this report from our safari with his entire third chapter being fulfilled in this time period that we are studying. The people around John were like a bunch of spoiled little brats – not happy at a wedding – not happy at the funeral – just never happy. The theater’s century old standing moniker is one smiling face and one frowning face. In reality most people are dead somewhere in between. Others are at one of those two extreme poles in their mind. Most pastors are nothing more than a wet nurse burping spiritual babies for a paycheck. That’s what the religious rulers were in that day, and that’s what they are today, too. Just a bunch of stupid little baby’s goo-gooing and gah-gahing while playing church and playing with Jesus. They’re playing wedding, but that’s so happy - the love is too light. They didn’t like playing funeral because that was just too sober and weighty and deep. This happens to be a deadly accurate picture of the average church today. I feel sorry for the minister that cannot say ALL of this to his congregation. Very few can.

Some people don’t like certain teachers because they are too intellectual. The same people don’t like the other man because he pounds on the pulpit and yells at the top of his voice. The problem is not in the preaching, my friends; no, the problem is with the spoiled babies we have as believers today. Because that is what Jesus just said, I think we can trust it. We leave off on a sour note, and for that I apologize. Our next report will be spectacular, I can ALMOST promise you! As your Spiritual Safari leader – or whatever – I ask you to pray that I never come under the editing of any man; that is, pray that I can always teach it as I see it. Also, pray the Lord will straighten me out in the areas where I am wrong. I only want to teach what I believe the Word of God really means. When you read my words – remember this – I MAY be wrong, but I am telling you what I believe with all

my heart, mind and soul the Bible is saying to us about our Savior and Lord.
That is the greatest satisfaction I have discovered in my Bible teaching years
so far ~

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