

Background Scripture: Luke 7:1-10

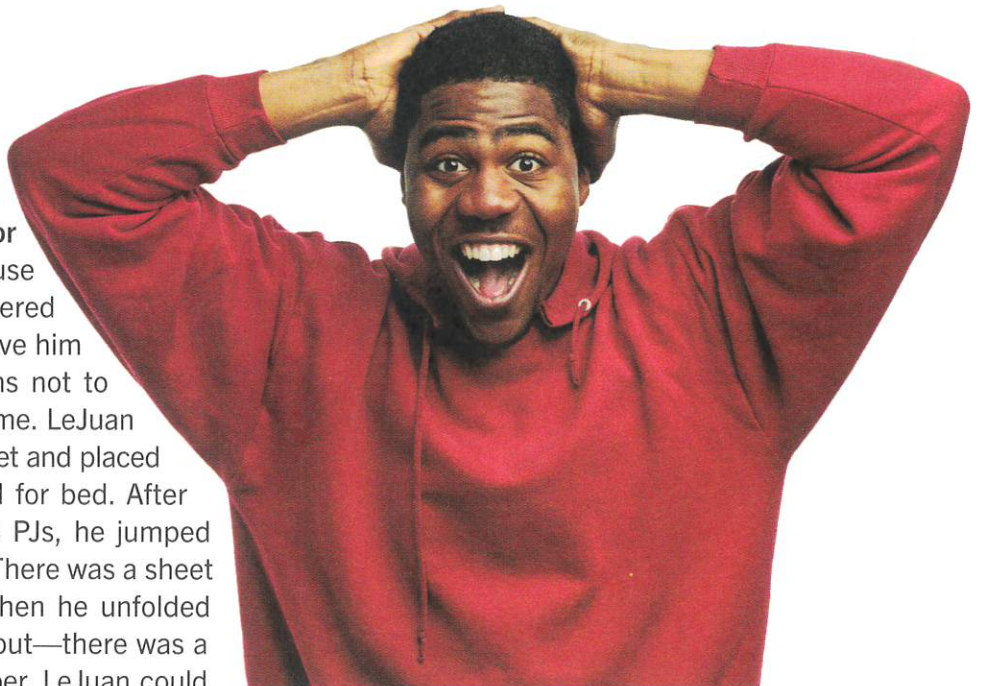
Print Passage: Luke 7:1-10

L7 Words of Healing

REFLECT



After the ceremony at the police headquarters, LeJuan, C. J., Josh, Amari, and their parents headed for their homes. After getting in the house and settling down, LeJuan remembered the envelopes that Mrs. Silverton gave him and his friends with the instructions not to open the envelope until they got home. LeJuan took the envelope from his coat pocket and placed it on his nightstand as he prepared for bed. After taking a shower and putting on his PJs, he jumped into bed and opened the envelope. There was a sheet of paper folded in the envelope; when he unfolded the paper, his eyes almost popped out—there was a check for \$10,000 folded in the paper. LeJuan could



hardly believe his eyes. He had never seen such a large amount on a check in his life that belonged to him. Before going to let his parents know what was in the envelope, he saw that the sheet of paper was a letter.

The letter read as follows: *Dear LeJuan, this check is a small token of my heartfelt appreciation to you and your friends for what you all did in saving our lives. I know that there has been so much animosity and division between the races in our community. I want you to know that I am so sorry that there are some white people who are mean, are racist, and have a disregard for people who are different from them. I am only one person, but I am aware that it only takes a spark to start a flame. It only takes one person to make a dream come true. Some people can never totally understand what you and your friends did for my family. I want you to know that I am sorry about those of my race who are so negative, hateful, and racist. I pray that you will forgive them. Your friends C. J., Josh, and Amari are receiving this same letter, as well as a check in the same amount. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart. My children—Amanda, Kaitlin, and Paige—send their love and thanks. Sincerely, Mrs. Silverton.*

LeJuan was not one to cry (after all, he was a football player), but tears rolled down his face. Those were words of healing from Mrs. Silverton.



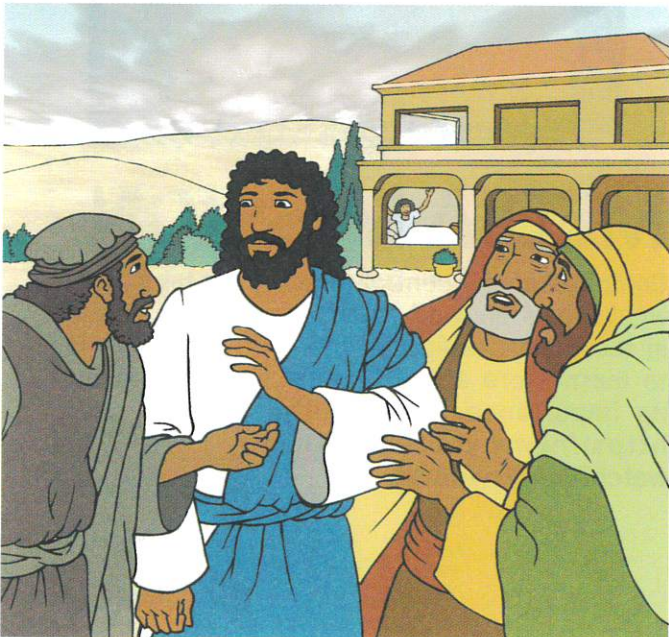
“That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.” (Luke 7:7)



INSPECT

Luke 7:1-10

1 When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. 2 There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. 3 The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, 5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." 6 So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." 10 Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.



INTERSECT

TODAY'S LESSON FEATURES THE INTERSECTION OF ROME'S MILITARY MIGHT AND HEAVEN'S SPIRITUAL POWER. IT IS A STORY OF JESUS CHRIST AND A CENTURION SOLDIER WHOSE ENCOUNTER WAS ABOUT TO TRANSCEND THEIR DIFFERENCES FOR GOD'S GLORY. At the conclusion of His teaching ministry in chapter 6 of Luke's gospel, Jesus entered the area of Capernaum. Upon entering, He was surrounded by the elders of the Jews who had come to ask for help for a Gentile centurion's servant. Why did those Jews seek Jesus' assistance for this centurion? Apparently, this centurion was particularly kind to the Jewish people, even to the extent of having built a synagogue for them. Interestingly, this centurion was concerned about his servant to the extent that he would approach Jesus for Jesus' divine intervention. This soldier's servant was sick, and the centurion believed that Jesus was the only one who could heal him.

The faith of this centurion soldier did not stop at the point of his requesting Jesus' help for his servant. He did not even want Jesus to go to his house to heal his servant; he expressed unworthiness to have Jesus go to his house. Here is what the centurion said: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy of coming to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed" (verses 6-7). What faith! What confidence the centurion displayed in Jesus' ability to heal!

Inside Out



This centurion's confidence in the words of Jesus still stands as a model for our faith today! Jesus and the Roman centurion may have come from very different backgrounds, cultures, and social locations; however, that did not prevent Jesus from healing the centurion's servant. Jesus was willing to set aside the things that made them different and focus on those things which they had in common: in this case, concern for the servant's life. In a similar way, there are times in our lives when we must set aside the things that make us different from others and place more emphasis on the things that draw us together.