

COMMENTARY

Chapter 7

vs. 1-10- The centurion would have been a Roman officer in command of 100 men. He would have been of Roman stock and blood. It would have been wrong for him (according to the Jews) to have come to Jesus or have invited Jesus into his home. He was reported to be a good man. Of the synagogues unearthed from that time period the one in Capernaum is by far the nicest. The centurion would have had to pay a pretty penny for such a structure.

vs. 11-17 There would have been a large crowd because it was expected that all would go with the family and share their grief at such a time. The boy would have been carried on a stretcher like device with a woven basket containing his body. The mourners would have been friends and professional mourners.

vs. 36-50 It was common hospitality to provide means of refreshment for guests that you were entertaining in your house. The refreshment would be to have their feet washed of the dirt and grime from their trip; giving them a kiss of greeting, and pouring oil upon their head. We see the Pharisee neglecting such hospitality.

COMMENTARY

Chapter 8

- vs. 4-8 The parable of the sower seems a simple one to us today. However, for the people then it would have been quite confusing. They would not have expected for Jesus to be the only sower and for Him alone to have the seed. They would have thought of others also have words of truth and worthy of being followed.
- vs. 22-25 Storms can come up quickly on the Sea of Galilee and this seems to be the case. The boat itself was beginning to be filled with water and starting to sink. The disciples request for help would have been for manual assistance; they are among the most suprised when Jesus displays His power over nature.
- vs. 26-39 The possessed man had lost control of his body and a demon was now in control. It exerted great power (ex. able to break chains) and caused pain for the man himself. The demons realize their inferiority to the Christ and beg for mercy.
- vs. 40-56 The woman had tried various people and cures and yet nothing had helped. Jesus sensing the power of healing being exerted causes the woman to come forward and confess her faith. This would have shown her that the power was in Christ and not the garments and the importance of her faith.
We see that some time had elapsed since the girls death as the mourners had already arrived. Jesus demonstrates His power over death.

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 7

1. What had the centurion done for the Jews?
2. What did the centurion do that showed faith that amazed Jesus?
3. What miracle did Jesus perform in the city of Nain?
4. What message did Jesus give to the messengers sent by John?
5. What did Jesus say about John?
6. Who invited Jesus for dinner and how is the woman there described?
7. What did the woman do for Jesus and how did the Pharisee respond?
8. Compare what the woman did for Jesus to what Simon failed to do.
9. What did Jesus tell the woman?

Bonus:

1. What lessons can be learned that apply to us today from Jesus' healing of the Centurion's servant and raising the widow's son in Nain?
2. Why do you think the least in the Kingdom in heaven is greater than John?
3. What lesson did Jesus try to impress upon Simon? Does this mean that the more we sin, the more we will love Jesus? Explain.

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 8

1. Who were the women who followed Jesus and how did they help the disciples and Jesus?
2. What are the four types of ground that Jesus refers to in the parable of the sower and the seed?
3. Why did Jesus speak to the crowds in parables?
4. In Jesus' explanation of the parable; what did the ground represent and how was the Word of God received?
5. Who does Jesus say are His family?
6. While in a boat; how did Jesus amaze His followers?
7. What happened when Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake?
8. What happened to the demons?
9. As the chapter closes what miracles does Jesus perform?

Bonus:

1. What is the lesson Jesus is trying to teach us in verses 16-18?
2. What mission did Jesus have for the formerly demon possessed man? What should we do when God does wonders for us?
3. In the raising of Jairus' daughter and the woman subject to bleeding; what seems to be a major criteria for their healing and being given life? In what ways should Christians today show their faith?