



## Season of Hope

(Luke 7:1-17)

### Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.
2. We'll celebrate Jesus' birth by looking at two people facing death.
  - a. In the midst of pain & suffering, we will discover why Jesus' coming brings a season of hope.
3. Death comes for us all.
  - a. All of us have sinned [Rom 3:23]. The wages of sin is death [Rom 6:23].
  - b. This world is not the way God made it to be, but the way we've made it through sin, rebellion & folly.

### Who is worthy? [Luke 7:1-10]

1. [7:1-6a] Dr. Luke's diagnosis: The servant is sick, at the point of death.
  - a. Servant: No legal rights; could be treated like an animal or property.
    - i. But the centurion loves him & tries to get Jesus to come save his life.
    - ii. Jesus loves people, not based on position/prominence in life, especially those at the bottom.
  - b. Centurion: Roman officer over 100 soldiers; caring & generous (toward his servant & Jewish people).
  - c. Religious folk: [7:4] "*He is worthy.*" They think God's favor is earned by man-made rules of doing good.
    - i. How we express it: "I've been good; bad things shouldn't happen to me. God, I deserve Your help."
2. The centurion is a man of amazing moral character.
  - a. He is living out his God-given conscience as an image-bearer.
  - b. But not living to the glory of God or experiencing eternal life apart from faith in Jesus.
  - c. How we relate: Life is pretty good, not in crisis; I'm a decent, moral person; I believe in God. Why do I need to give my life to Jesus?
3. [7:6b-10] The servant gets healed, but the story is really about the centurion's experience of faith in Jesus.
  - a. Centurion: [7:6b] "I am not worthy." He sees himself in comparison to Jesus.
  - b. [7:7-8] He understands his own authority, & that Jesus' authority as God is greater.
  - c. [7:9] Faith: The centurion understands Jesus is God, that's the chain of command, & he needs to trust Jesus.
4. Application: As we come to know Jesus, we recognize who He is, & who we are in comparison.
  - a. Compare yourself to Jesus, not other people. Then you will see your sin & need for a Savior.
  - b. Those who are moral, who are religious, & who are suffering, come to Jesus.

### Every person's life will be wrecked [Luke 7:11-17]

1. [7:11-12] A woman who is having a horrible day: She has buried her husband & is now burying her son.
  - a. God has particular affection for widows & orphans.
  - b. Truth: In every life, there will come a day when it will be wrecked.
2. [7:13-14] Jesus seeks out wrecked people.
  - a. She didn't ask for Jesus; He just comes.
  - b. He reaches into the casket & touches death.
3. [7:15-17] He gives a one-word command: "Arise."
  - a. The young man sits up, speaks, comes out of the coffin & Jesus hands him over to his mom.

- b. Imagine the emotional transition: From tears of anguish to tears of joy.
  - c. Did this really occur? Corroborating testimony outside the Bible: Quadrus writing to Roman Emperor Hadrian.
4. Jesus touches dead people & brings life.
- a. This is a picture of salvation at work [cf. Eph 2:4-5].
  - b. We are in the same condition as this man; though physically alive, spiritually dead [cf. Rom 3:10-11].
  - c. This man does not reach out to Jesus; Jesus reaches out to him.
  - d. We're dead in sin & did not reach out to Jesus; He reaches out to us, touches us, & gives life to us.
5. In raising this man, it shows Jesus' power over death, & how things will ultimately be in the end.
- a. One day, we will all rise, as this man, some called to eternal life, others to eternal death [cf. John 5:28-29].
  - b. Jesus unveils the Kingdom, where He is King, death is overcome, & we get a glimpse into what God intends.

## **Conclusion**

1. Your life & mine will be wrecked.
- a. Reality: Death touches us all.
  - b. The real Christmas story: Jesus touches death & brings life.
  - c. Jesus comes to find wrecked people.
2. For children of God, He will again declare: "Arise", the dead will come to life, & be reunited in His presence.
- a. Christmas is about Jesus' birth & life, but more importantly, His coming signals new birth & new life for all who call on Him as Lord, God, Savior & King.