

WISDOM IS JUSTIFIED IN US THROUGH CHRIST (LUKE 7)

Today we're going to go over **Luke 7**. Last week we looked at **Luke 6**, which was a shortened or an abridged version of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" that is more in its fullness in **Matthew 5-7**, which we went over this past summer. Within the "Sermon on the Mount" is what is called "The Beatitudes", which does not mean to "be attituded" properly, although it could be said that is the byproduct of a beatitude, but it means "supreme blessedness", and there is nothing more supreme and blessed than a blessing coming from God Almighty! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (**James 1:17**) If God blesses you, you are going to know it, and others will also.

Aside from "The Beatitudes" that we find in **Luke 6** and **Matthew 5**, there are more supreme blessings found elsewhere, throughout God's Word, such as what we get from Jesus' interaction with Thomas (lovingly and respectfully referred to as "doubting Thomas". As he is our brother in Christ and is no longer doubting we use his example as a teaching point!). After Jesus had been crucified on the cross, died and then was put in a burial tomb, Jesus rose from the grave on the third day and He first appeared to some of the disciples and then we are told this, "And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **"Peace to you!"** [Once again, that word peace in the Greek is "eirene" (ay-ray-nay), from eirō, "to join, tie together into a whole") - properly meaning, wholeness, which can mean individually and personally as well as collectively, as the body of Christ. It is the same word that Jesus used in telling His disciples that He was going to be leaving them, and said, **"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."** (**John 14:26-27**) Now back to Jesus and Thomas:] Then He said to Thomas, **"Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."** And Thomas answered and said to Him, **"My Lord and my God!"** Jesus [did not correct Thomas for saying that but] said to him, **"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed.** [Here's the beatitude] **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."** (**John 20:26-29**) It can also be said, based on the truth of this narrative, another beatitude or supreme blessing is that blessed are those of whom Jesus knows, as He knew Thomas and spoke to him by his name, and blessed are those who know Him as their Lord and their God AND their Savior AND their Heavenly Father! One more for us is in **Luke 11**. A woman from the crowd that surrounded Jesus said, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" Here, this woman and all of the crowd that day, had Jesus, the Christ the

Son of the Living God before them and she said that! Jesus' response? **"More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:27-28)** What does that mean for us today in the here and now? The first covenant that God had with the Israelites through the law of Moses, also known as the Mosaic Law, was in force, to some degree or another, up through the time of Christ Jesus, in now null and void. That is the Old Covenant that we can read about in the Old Testament. Now we are in the New Covenant era according to the New Testament that is through Christ Jesus. "But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe in His name**: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:12-13**) Once we believe on Christ Jesus and receive Him we are in the New Covenant with God through Christ. From there we are told by the Apostle John, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God [**"blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"**]. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son." (**2 John 1:9**) The teachings of Christ Jesus are summed up in what He said was the Great Commandment, to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and then the second commandment, to love our neighbors as ourselves. Then, as Jesus promised, **"blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"**

From "The Beatitudes" Jesus spoke the "blessed are you" statements to His listeners (and to us). Like what we read from **Luke 6:20-23**, **"Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you [to speak abusively to or about you], and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets."** To those then who are in Christ Jesus, following Jesus and obeying God, you are and will be richly blessed, according to His riches in glory (**Philippians 4:19**), guaranteed! With that then, we can now address the title of our message today as it will come up in our reading of **Luke 7**. Wisdom is justified in us (the children of God), through Christ Jesus. The word justified means "to show to be right or reasonable". So to expand and rephrase our title, "wisdom is shown to be right and reasonable in us through Christ Jesus", as we are a living testimony unto Christ as He dwells in us! Wisdom is speaking to us. **"Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors."** (**Proverbs 8:32-34**)

The Apostle Paul, in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, gave us the four pillars, so to speak, that come from God through Christ Jesus, that testifies to ourselves and to others, that we are indeed His workmanship

(**Ephesians 2:10**) and to **Psalms 127:1** that tells us, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." What holds up that proverbial house is **1. Wisdom from God 2. Righteousness from God 3. Sanctification from God 4. Redemption from God.** He is our Wisdom, He is our Righteousness, He is our Sanctification, and He is our Redemption. Similarly, Jesus said in **John 14:6**, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." That works out with "supreme blessedness" as He is perfect in all of His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and His Works (**Deuteronomy 32:4**).

That "supreme blessedness" for us is in not only acknowledging that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that He is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption, but also that He is also Lord of all! It is then up to us to respond accordingly, as a child of God, as we are led by the Holy Spirit. "We love Him because He first loved us." (**1 John 4:19**) We are being called into God's eternal kingdom, to be a child of God. We are being led to believe on Jesus as being the Christ, meaning the Anointed One of God, that He is the only begotten Son of God (**John 3:16**), who then, after a short ministry of 3-3-1/2 years, was crucified and died on a cross for our sins, taking our sins against God, upon Himself, yet then He arose from the dead on the third day, conquering death, sin, and evil, making a way for us also to overcome that sting of death and have everlasting life in Christ, in God's eternal kingdom. We are led to believe on Jesus being the Christ, as being God's way for our salvation, and then to repent of our sins, (metanoeo-recognizing a need for change, His righteousness, and heeding to that change). We are believing on and receiving His righteousness and then living in and according to His righteousness. In other words, we are turning to God, our Creator, for the forgiveness of our sins against Him, and then we are to receive the Holy Spirit into their heart, who is also referred to as the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God (**Romans 8:9**). We are then "born-again" as Jesus said we must be. After all that, we are then to live the remainder of our lives, in our present lifetime in the flesh, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we are guided according to the Word of God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**) The Apostle Paul tells us, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." (**Romans 8:1-2**) He goes on to say, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (**Romans 8:14-**

15) As we went over the book of James a couple weeks ago, James referred to us as living according to the law of liberty. He tells us, "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, **this one will be blessed in what he does.**" (James 1:25) Wisdom is then justified (shown to be right and reasonable) in us through Christ Jesus. You'll recognize it and so will others!

We looked at **1 John 1-3** previously, and the Apostle John began his epistle or letter by saying "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the **Word of Life**— the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have **fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.** And these things we write to you that **your joy [chara] may be full.**" (1 John 1:1-4) That is NOT a joy that the world can give you and the fullness of that joy is experienced in fellowship with the Father and the Son and then also our brothers and sisters in Christ! Similarly, the Apostle John opened his gospel narrative of Christ Jesus in the book of John saying, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." (John 1:1-3) Then we can add to that, **Colossians 1:16**, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and **for Him**". That is, so that we may have fellowship with our Heavenly Father, our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, and with one another and that we may have His peace (wholeness) and that our joy may be full! That we may all proclaim together that Christ Jesus IS indeed Lord of all! "The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath" (**Isaiah 45:23**) "that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (**Philippians 2:11**) And then, as we live in a dark and depraved and sin-plagued world, that His wisdom is justified in us, and will testify to us and to others of Christ Jesus to the glory of God!

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Luke 7:1-10 (Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant)

Now when He [Jesus] concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

Luke 7:11-17 (Jesus Raises the Son of the Widow of Nain)

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain [nah-een]; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

Luke 7:18-28 (John the Baptist Sends Messengers to Jesus)

Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' " And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.' For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

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It is then no doubt then that John the Baptist was not asking for himself, but even in prison he was leading people, or more accurately, sending people to Christ Jesus so that they may know Him too!] And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified [knew to be right and reasonable] God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers **rejected the will of God** for themselves, not having been baptized by him. And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we mourned to you, and you did not weep.' For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by all her children."

[That really fits in with the saying, it is not up to God to get on our plan and purpose but for us to get on His plan and purpose by doing the will of God. We can't manipulate God into doing what we want Him to do, we are seeking God for Him to do what He wants to do. We try to turn things around by basically saying, "I'll obey You Lord if you meet my needs and desires", where we are told, by Jesus Himself, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:31-34)

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Luke 7:36-50 (A Sinful Woman Forgiven)

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Simon, I have something to say to you.**" So he said, "Teacher, say it." "**There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii [din-air-ee-eye], and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?**" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave

more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

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Eirene (ay-ray-nay). "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace [peace, completeness, wholeness]." We love Him as He first loved us! The wisdom of God is justified in us through Christ. How will you respond to Him? Simon may have felt justified by having Jesus over for dinner. Yet the woman was justified by Christ Jesus in her response to Him, loving Him with all that was in her heart, washing and kissing His feet. Jesus has said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—" (John 14:15-16) Right after that Jesus said this, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23) The wisdom of God is justified, known and shown to be right and reasonable, through His children, as we respond to the love of God in Christ by loving Him and keeping His Word.