

FULFILLED

Study 6 - Luke 7:1-8:3

1. Read Luke 7:1-8:3 keeping an eye out for different responses to Jesus. Who are the people who respond appropriately to Jesus? Should this be surprising to us or not? (see Luke 2:32 and 5:31-32)
2. Jesus commends both the centurion and the woman who had lived a sinful life. What is the appropriate response to Jesus which these two have in common and which they model?
3. In that time, Romans typically looked down on Jews. How does this background help us to understand Jesus' reaction in verses 9-10 better?
4. Read 1 Kings 17:17-24. How does Jesus' raising of the widow's son compare with that miracle? To what extent are the conclusions the crowd draws in v16 correct?
5. In what way are Jesus' motivation and his unprompted initiative in raising the son an encouragement to you? How should this affect your attitude in prayer?
6. Read Luke 3:7-9 and 3:15-20. What circumstances might have prompted John's question in v19? How is Jesus' ministry different to what John might have expected?
7. How does Jesus assure John that he was not mistaken about the identity of the Messiah?
8. How does the example of John the Baptist caution us in our thinking about Jesus?

9. In verses 24-28, Jesus is extraordinarily complimentary of John's ministry, but then he astounds everyone by saying: 'the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.' What does this tell us about the amazing privilege of being alive after the Kingdom of God has broken into the world? (see Luke 5:33-34 and the NOTE below)
10. How does Simon's response to Jesus, in v39, measure up to the woman who had lived a sinful life and the centurion?
11. What is the relationship between love for God and forgiveness? (7:41-48) In what way might it be dangerous to push Jesus' teaching on this point too far?
12. What does the summary in 8:1-3 tell us about the makeup of God's Kingdom? How does this challenge perceptions of the church today - both from outside and inside?

NOTE

As great as John the Baptist was, he belonged to the age of promise - he was the last (and greatest) of the Old Covenant prophets.

With Jesus, the age of the Kingdom and the New Covenant has broken in and the time of fulfilment of the promises God made in the past has come near. The privilege of *announcing* the arrival of the Messiah is not as great as the privilege of *belonging* to the Kingdom that the Messiah is bringing.

Those who follow Jesus and belong to the Kingdom are called '*children of the Most High*' whereas John was still looking forward to these realities and didn't get to participate in these privileges during his lifetime.