When God Hurts sermon for 8-27-17

# Luke 7:1-35 (NKJV)

Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. **2**And a certain centurion’s servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. **3**So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. **4**And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, **5**“for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.”

**6**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. **7**Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. **8**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.*”

**9**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!” **10**And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+7&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25206a)]

**11**Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. **12**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. **13**When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” **14**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.” **15**So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

**16**Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.” **17**And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

**18**Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. **19**And John, calling two of his disciples to *him,* sent *them* to Jesus,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+7&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25215b)] saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

**20**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?’” **21**And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

**22**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.**23**And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of Me.”

**24**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? **25**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. **26**But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. **27**This is *he* of whom it is written:

‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.’[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+7&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25223c)]

**28**For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist;[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+7&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25224d)] but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

**29**And when all the people heard *Him,* even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. **30**But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

**31**And the Lord said,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+7&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25227e)] “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? **32**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.’

**33**For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ **34**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!’ **35**But wisdom is justified by all her children.”

**Offense at God is a belief that He has done something wrong—maybe even something devious.**

**How Offense at God operates…**

* **Unrepentant offense at God grows quickly into bitterness—the destructive product of offense caused by betrayal.**
* **Unrepentant offense at God makes it impossible to see the good that God is doing.**
* **Unrepentant offense at God makes faith impossible.**
  + Faith is trust, so how can we trust someone who has let us down?
  + How can we trust someone who does not have our good at heart?

# Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

* + **6**But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him,* for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
* **Offense at God destroys, turning even the strongest of Christians into reeds shaken by the wind.**

**Jesus’ reaction to our offense…**

* **He continues doing good.**
* **He tells us of His goodness.**
* **He asks us to let go of our offense.**

God’s will for you is for you to agree with Him that He is right in everything that He does or does not do.

**Those who are born of God will confess that God is just, right, and honorable in all of His decisions.**

Is faith/trust/confidence in God a choice or is it something like “falling in love”?

# 1 Kings 19:1-18 (NKJV)

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. **2**Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do *to me,* and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” **3**And when he saw *that,* he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there.

**4**But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!”

* Talk about a mighty man of God reduced to a reed shaken by the wind.
* If Elijah was running simply because he was afraid for his life, then why did he pray that God would kill him? Offense. Elijah felt abandoned, betrayed, disappointed, disillusioned, and depressed.

**5**Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+kings+19%3A1-18&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-9393a)] touched him, and said to him, “Arise *and* eat.” **6**Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. **7**And the angel[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+kings+19%3A1-18&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-9395b)] of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise *and* eat, because the journey *is* too great for you.” **8**So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

**9**And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

**10**So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

* He felt so alone. Abandoned by people and by God.

**11**Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, *but* the Lord *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the Lord *was* not in the earthquake; **12**and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

**13**So it was, when Elijah heard *it,* that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

**14**And he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

**15**Then the Lord said to him: “Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael *as* king over Syria. **16**Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi *as* king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint *as* prophet in your place. **17**It shall be *that* whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. **18**Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

**When you are assailed by disappointment and doubt, examine your heart and deal with offense towards God.**

* **Humbly accept His provisions even when He gives no answers.**
* **Wait patiently for His voice.**
* **Respect God with fear due your Creator and Lord.**
* **Choose to believe God’s word over your perception.**

“Although there may be a lot of bones and it may look very dead, remember that when the Word from the Lord went into the valley, the dry bones had no choice but to obey. God does not have to gain permission from the dead to allow life; He is the author of life.”

—Ray Williams

# Mark 11:22 (NKJV)

**22**So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God.