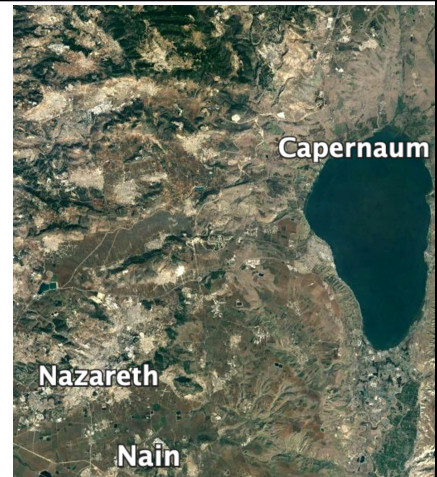


“Symposium” - Commentators believe the scene in Luke 7:36-50 is a “kosher” version of a Greek *symposium*. While today we associate the word with academia, *symposium* means “drink together.” The symposium was one of the more significant aspects of ancient Greek culture, as it served as a setting for discussions, revelry, and debates among prominent figures in Greek antiquity. Those participating in the event would recline on couches that lined the room. Typically, no more than 30 would attend. There was also an erotic element, as evidenced by the vases and artwork depicting sexual scenes at the ancient drinking parties. Women attended symposia to perform music, engage in discussions, and sex.*

Observant Jews modified the symposium to focus their philosophizing on matters of Torah and they would *never* drink to excess or engage in sexual impropriety. With this background, consider the woman’s behavior in Luke 7, which begins to mirror what might happen at non-Jewish symposia as the party progressed into the late hours. This along with the fact that Jesus does not object, understandably causes offense and shock from the Jewish participants. Of course, after He has their attention, Jesus uses the moment to restore and teach.



**Setting of Lesson 23
Capernaum and Nain**

Backgrounds video:
Biblical Events in the
Jezreel Valley.



Memory Verse #23: Luke 7:19 - Are _____ the Coming _____, or are we to look for _____?

Walking in His Dust (Acts 10:4): Talmidim _____. “Your _____ and charitable _____ have ascended as a memorial offering before _____.”

Lesson notes & questions:

Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

* adapted from <https://greekreporter.com>



“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)

Word Wednesday Lesson 23 – The Coming One? Luke 7:1-8:3

APPLY!

- Share any “Lesson Reflections” with the group. Recite this lesson’s memory verse.
- **Healing of Centurion’s Servant - (Jesus bridges ethnic divisions)**
 - What was so impressive about the Roman centurion? What did Jesus marvel at? (Yes, his “faith”, but what *about* his faith?)
- **Raising the Widow’s Son (Jesus bridges economic divisions)**
 - Of the “many widows in Israel” (cf. Luke 4:25), why does Jesus select this woman for compassion and intervention?
 - How did the crowd respond to the miracle of raising up the widow’s dead son? What causes different groups to react differently to His miracles?
- **John’s Question/Jesus’ Response (Jesus bridges religious doubts & divisions)**
 - **Read Matthew 8:24-26.** Why does Jesus chastise the disciples for lack of faith, but He doesn’t chastise John in Luke 7? What is the distinction between the two events? What does this tell us about Jesus?
 - Even a mature believer like John experienced doubt and grappled with what he wanted the Bible to say versus what it actually says. What can we apply to our walks from this episode?
- **At the house of Simon the Pharisee (Jesus bridges moral divisions)**
 - Referencing the article on the reverse side, what are some examples of Christian adaptations of secular things? What are some risks inherent in copying something the world does and applying a Christian label to it?
 - There’s a saying that as we mature in Jesus, we aren’t sinless, but we should sin less. As we grow in faith, how do we maintain the “forgiven much” passion for Jesus the woman has, while avoiding the “forgiven little” hardness of Simon?
 - As is often the case, the Bible doesn’t tell us how Simon responded. How would you respond had you been the one Jesus called out for being judgmental? What would you do next?
- **Three “Talmidot” (Jesus bridges gender divisions)**
 - In what ways do Jesus’ *talmidot* (women disciples) represent a contrast to the prevailing attitudes of Roman society towards the value of women?
 - **Read Romans 11:29 and Acts 5:39.** How do we individually and as a fellowship support and empower faithful women for whom it is obvious God has called to the ministry?
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs**
 - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life
 - Petitions for specific challenges and intercessions for others