

Dear Church Family,

Good Morning! I have the privilege of joining you for *Worship Service on March 26th* and the honor to share with you from God's Holy Word.

As I was praying over what God would have me share, I had a wonderful conversation with a very dear member of Ardena and subsequently the topic became clearer to me. On March 26th I will be diving into **Luke 7:36 -50**. The title of the message will be **"Why are you here...and are you poured out for Jesus?"**

We will explore the encounter that Jesus has with two diametrically opposed people: Simon, a well-respected Pharisee and an unnamed woman who was better known for her public behavior. This encounter will provoke us to try to understand their motivation to be in the very presence of Jesus and maybe question our own motivation – **"Why am I here....and am I poured out for Jesus?"**

How do we get there? Because Luke 7 is such a pivotal chapter of scripture that contains so much, I am encouraging Ardena to join me in a two-week preparation for March 26th.

What I am asking my Dear Friends at Ardena to do:

1. Pray that God would be honored through your worship.
2. Participate in reading several verses that I will quickly skim over but which give context to our primary text.
3. Read **Luke 7:1-22** and make observations regarding the authority of Jesus (we will see later on in the chapter that Simon questions our Lord's authority).
4. As always, think about inviting a friend to Ardena.

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS (Luke 7)

The Centurion – acknowledgment (vs. 1-10)

- How did the centurion demonstrate his **acknowledgement** of the authority of Jesus?
- How do you acknowledge Jesus' control and authority over the details and events of your life?

The Young Man – response (vs. 11-17)

- How did the young man **respond** to Jesus' direct authoritative command? What was the reaction by those who observed the young man's response?
- Think back to a time that you responded to the call of Jesus...even if it was uncomfortable. How did that strengthen your faith? What were the reactions of those close to you?

John the Baptist – reaction (vs. 18-22)

- Why do you think John was questioning Jesus' authority or "whether we should look for another?"
- Has there ever been a time in your life that you questioned your faith or even who Jesus is in your life?
- What words of comfort or action did Jesus do to demonstrate His Kingdom authority to John?
- How do you think John the Baptist **reacted** to the authority of Christ after hearing the report from his disciples? How do you feel when you hear or learn about Jesus' response to our questions or prayer?

Again, thanks for allowing me to join you and for preparing your hearts for what God wants us to know.

Bob Galvin