

## New Life in the Kingdom Luke 7:1-17

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### BREAKING DOWN AND ENTERING IN



### Remembering the Berlin Wall

- **Weekly ‘peace prayers’ mixing Gospel readings with political debates**
- ***“Participants and their contributions to the debate may not contradict the Gospel of the crucified Christ and its message of reconciliation and must be based on the commandments of God insofar as they aim to preserve life.”***
- ***“The peaceful revolution was, at its core, also a Christian revolution...”***

**Jesus breaks down barriers and enters in to the mess of our humanity.**

### I. The Jewish Rabbi and the Roman Centurion (Luke 7:1-10)

- **In God’s Kingdom there is no recognition of class or race or religion.**
- **Jesus is a tearer down of walls and builder up of people.**
- **In the mess of real life, all human categories become meaningless**
- **In the Kingdom, allegiances begin to shift.**
- **The Centurion is a Kingdom-Man (but does he know the King?)**
- **Jesus holds up this non-Jewish military ruler as a great hero of faith.**

### II. The Son of God and the Grieving Mom

**(Luke 7:11-17)**

- **Jesus encounters a messy situation.**
- **Jesus is filled with emotion.**

**Jesus felt *compassion*; was *angry, indignant, and consumed with zeal*; *troubled, greatly distressed, overwhelmed with sorrow, deeply moved, and grieved*; he *sighed*; he *wept and sobbed*; he *groaned*; he was *in agony*; he was *surprised and amazed*; he *rejoiced very greatly* and was *full of joy*; he *greatly desired*, and he *loved*.**

**Jesus understands what it feels like to be in deep emotional pain and mental anguish.**

- **Jesus enters in.**

**Jesus is not afraid of the grieving mom.**

**Jesus is not afraid of your mess.**

**We serve a real God with real emotions who isn't afraid to enter in to our real messes.**

**Things to Think About:**

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**What kinds of barriers (class, race, religion, gender, age, education, sexual orientation, ?) have you observed or participated in?**

**What's our role in tearing down these kinds of barriers? Are any of these barriers beneficial?**

**Do you think it's possible to be a kingdom-minded person without being in relationship with Jesus? Why or why not?**

**The Centurion has never met Jesus and still chooses to call him 'Lord'. Why?**

**What prevents us from being real with one another?**

**Is *The Sanctuary* truly a sanctuary? Do you feel you can be real on Sundays and in your home church? Why or why not?**

**Do the emotions of Jesus comfort you or disturb you? Why?**

**Will you invite Jesus into the messiest part of your life? Can you imagine him being present in your darkest hour?**

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