

**"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan****LUKE 7****Luke 7**

Luke Seven opens with Jesus coming back into the town in the Galilee, called in English "Capernaum." **Capernaum** is the loose transliteration of the Hebrew word "*K'far Nahum*." "*K'far*" is the common word for "town" in Hebrew, and **Nahum** is a common name, like the "*prophet Nahum*." The translation or meaning would therefore be "*the town of Nahum*."

Capernaum was the ministry headquarters of the Lord Jesus in the Galilee. The Galilee geographically is divided into two parts, the Lower Galilee and the Upper Galilee. The Lower Galilee includes villages and towns such as Nazareth, Cana, and all the villages and towns around the "Sea of Galilee," which is a freshwater lake, the lowest on the planet. The hills are not as high and more rolling than those of the Upper Galilee region. The Lower Galilee, especially around the Sea of Galilee, is where 75% of all the recorded miracles performed by the Lord Jesus took place. Jesus lived in Capernaum for approximately three years and made it His ministry center. This was also the town where Peter, the consensus leader of the disciples, lived with his wife's family. We know that because the gospels record that this is where Peter's mother-in-law lived, as she was healed by Jesus. On a side note, Capernaum was one of the three towns mentioned in the "woe" passage of Matthew eleven, as a town set for destruction because of their lack of repentance at the ministry and message of Jesus the Messiah.

After the recording of the miraculous healing of a Roman centurion's servant, Jesus left the town and traveled to the area of the Jezreel Valley. This is a beautiful journey then and now for anyone to make. It is about a day's walk from Capernaum to the city of Nain. Luke records that as Jesus and His disciples traveled across the rolling fertile hills of the Lower Galilee, crowds gathered, and many traveled with them as they made their way to the most spectacular valley in the land of Israel. In the book of Revelation, the Jezreel Valley is called the Valley of Armageddon. Jesus raised a widow's son from the dead in front of the gathered crowds. Raising the widow's son in this area would have brought to

mind the ministries of Elijah and Elisha in this area. In fact, Elisha would have lived very near to the city of Nain, and no doubt the story of his call by Elijah in the fields nearby would have been a living reality to the people of that area and no doubt a featured story from the writings of the stories of the prophets as recorded in the Bible.

The next story is about the episode in the life of Jesus concerning John the Baptist, a relative of Jesus. John had been imprisoned by Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great and the founder of the city of Tiberias along the southwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. John, who had announced Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," was now sending word to Jesus, asking, "***If indeed He was the Coming One, or should they look for another?***" Amazingly Jesus did not give a yes or no answer. Instead, He answered him by telling John's disciples to go back and tell what they had seen as they observed Jesus.

***When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, 'Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?' At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. "Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."***  
(Luke 7:20-23)

The most notable and instructive thing in this passage is that John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, who announced Him as the Messiah, had seen the Dove come upon Him, the voice from heaven had followed the Lord's ministry, and yet in prison, alone, and knowing he could be executed at the whim of Herod Antipas, was doubting his entire ministry. This is why he sent the entourage to inquire of Jesus. Jesus needed John to realize who He was, not by just His words, but by the miracles that He had done, which were fulfillments of the ancient prophecies concerning the coming Messiah.

**Prayer and Action Steps**

*In times of great anxiety and hard circumstances, we may be tempted to doubt if Jesus is who He says He really is. Each of us can and may take comfort and be encouraged that the greatest preacher ever born, John the Baptist, also doubted under strain. Jesus did not rebuke John for doubting but rather encouraged him to look and listen to the Words of God written in the Bible. That is a good word for all of us today as well.*