

DAILY BREAD

FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 13, 2010

This week's assigned reading: Luke, chapters 7 and 8.

Comments on the assigned reading:

- At the beginning of chapter 7, Jesus heals a centurion's servant. A centurion was a Roman army officer who led 100 men. This centurion was unusual because the Jews saw him as a friend rather than as a leader in an army of occupation. This is Jesus' first dealings in Luke's Gospel with a Gentile, that is, someone who is not a Jew.
- In 7:36-50 we have the story of the woman who bathes with her tears, anoints them, and dries them with her hair. She is labeled a sinner. Many believe that she was a prostitute, but in fact, the text does not say why she was a sinner.
- Luke more than the other Gospels depicts Jesus as having care and respect for women. At the beginning of chapter 8 a number of women are named as his followers. In fact, some of them financially supported Jesus and his disciples.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. When Jesus raised from the dead the widow's son in the town of Nain (7:11-17), the people acclaimed him to be a prophet. There are other passages in Luke where Jesus is seen as a prophet. One of the things that prophets do is to tell the truth to whoever is listening. What is the truth you most want to hear? What is the truth that you don't want to hear?
2. In the story of the woman who bathes and anoints Jesus' feet, he said "Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Is there someone in your life who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to be forgiven?
3. In 8:21 Jesus declares, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." Jesus is saying that the community of the church takes precedence even over one's family. This is a hard thing to accept. What can you do to build a greater sense of community in our congregation and in the church at large?

Suggestions for prayer:

- For GLOW which has its last program this Wednesday before taking a short break. Pray for the children and adults who come to GLOW, both participants and volunteers.
- For the evangelical outreach of the gospel by our congregation as well as by the church in Uhominyi, our companion congregation in Tanzania.

For the blog conversation on these readings, go to:

<http://web.me.com/ronald.peterson1/FAITHnrFUTURE/Blog/Blog.html>