

The background of the image is a dramatic landscape. A dark, stormy sky with heavy, grey clouds dominates the upper two-thirds of the frame. A thick, dark column of smoke or mist rises from the horizon, partially obscuring the clouds. In the lower third, a straight, two-lane road with a dashed white center line stretches from the bottom edge towards the horizon. The road is flanked by green grass. The overall mood is somber and urgent.

TIMELESS TRUTH

FOR TROUBLED TIMES

***Trust
Amid
Suffering***

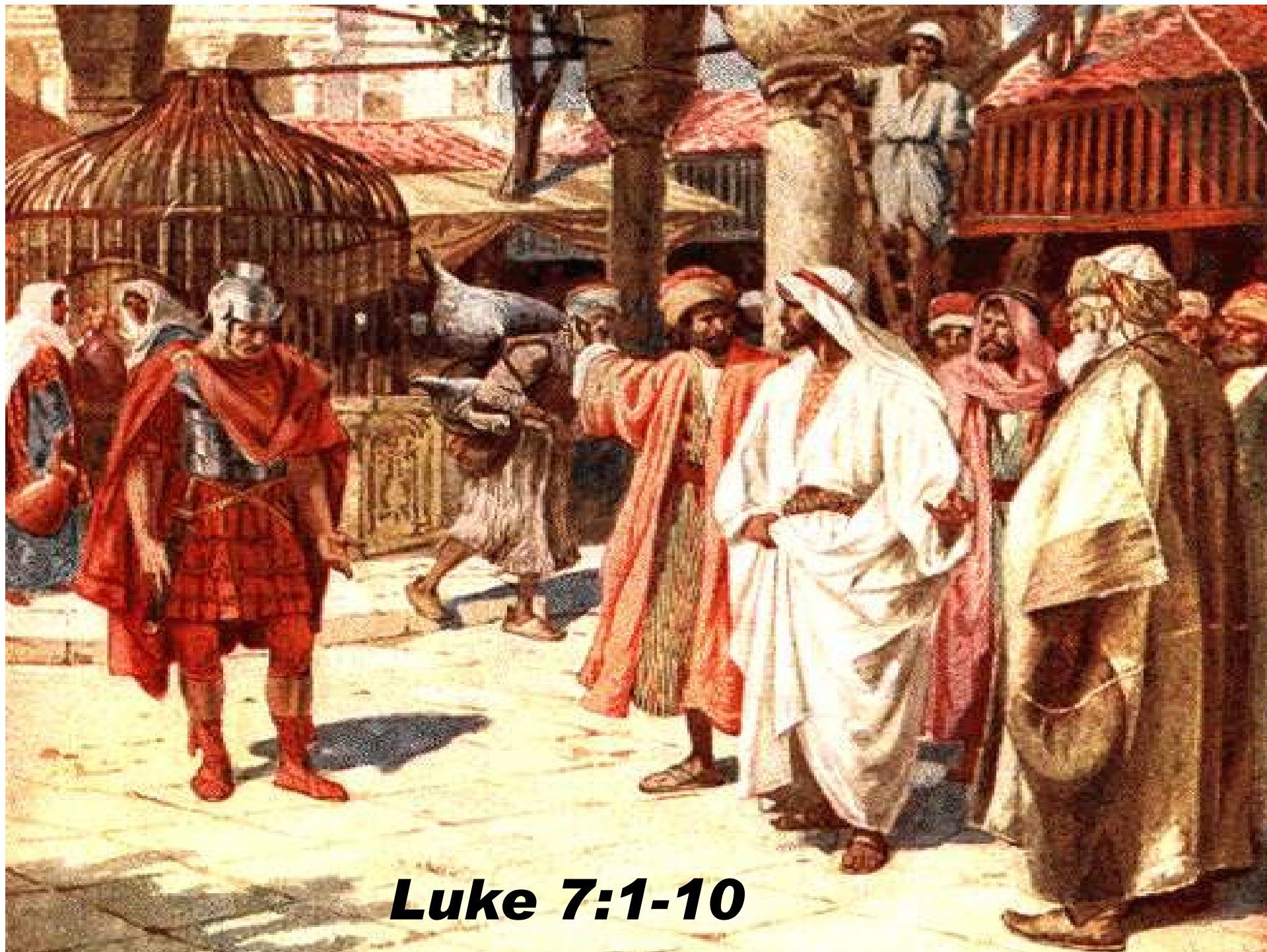


Undeserved Suffering In The Lives Of Godly People:

- ***Asaph (Ps.73, 77)***
- ***Moses (Ps.90)***
- ***Job***
- ***Noah***
- ***Joseph***
- ***Luke 7:19***
- ***And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"***

I. THE DISTRESS OF THE SORROWER (7:11-17)

A. The Death



Luke 7:1-10



Luke 7:11-17

I. THE DISTRESS OF THE SORROWER (7:11-17)

A. The Death

B. The Desolation

- ***Luke 7:11-12***
- ***11 Soon afterwards He went to a city called Nain; and His disciples were going along with Him, accompanied by a large crowd.***
- ***12 Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her.***

I. THE DISTRESS OF THE SORROWER (7:11-17)

A. The Death

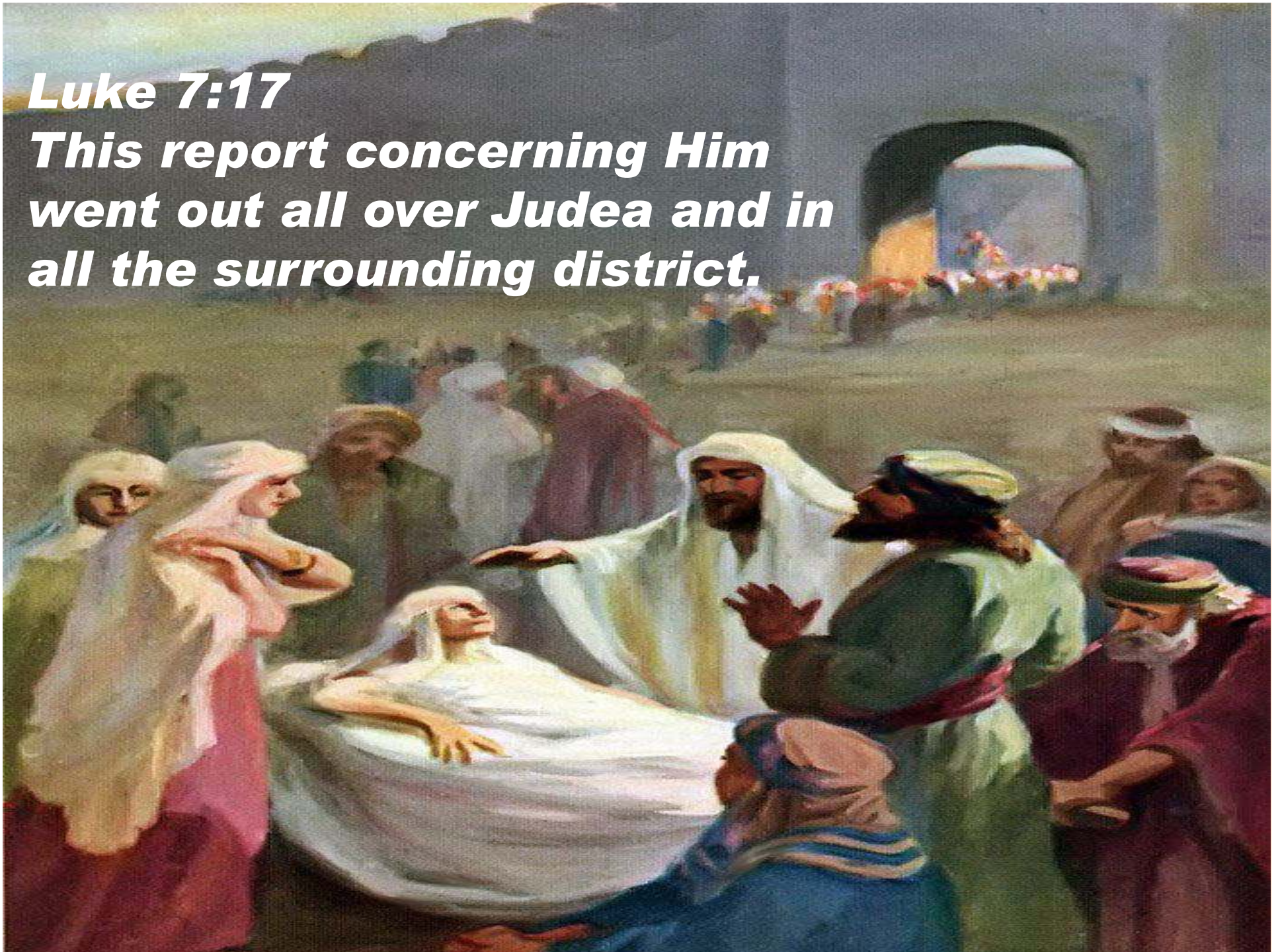
B. The Desolation

C. The Deliverance

- ***Luke 7:14-15***
- ***14 And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt.***
- ***And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise!”***
- ***15 The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother.***

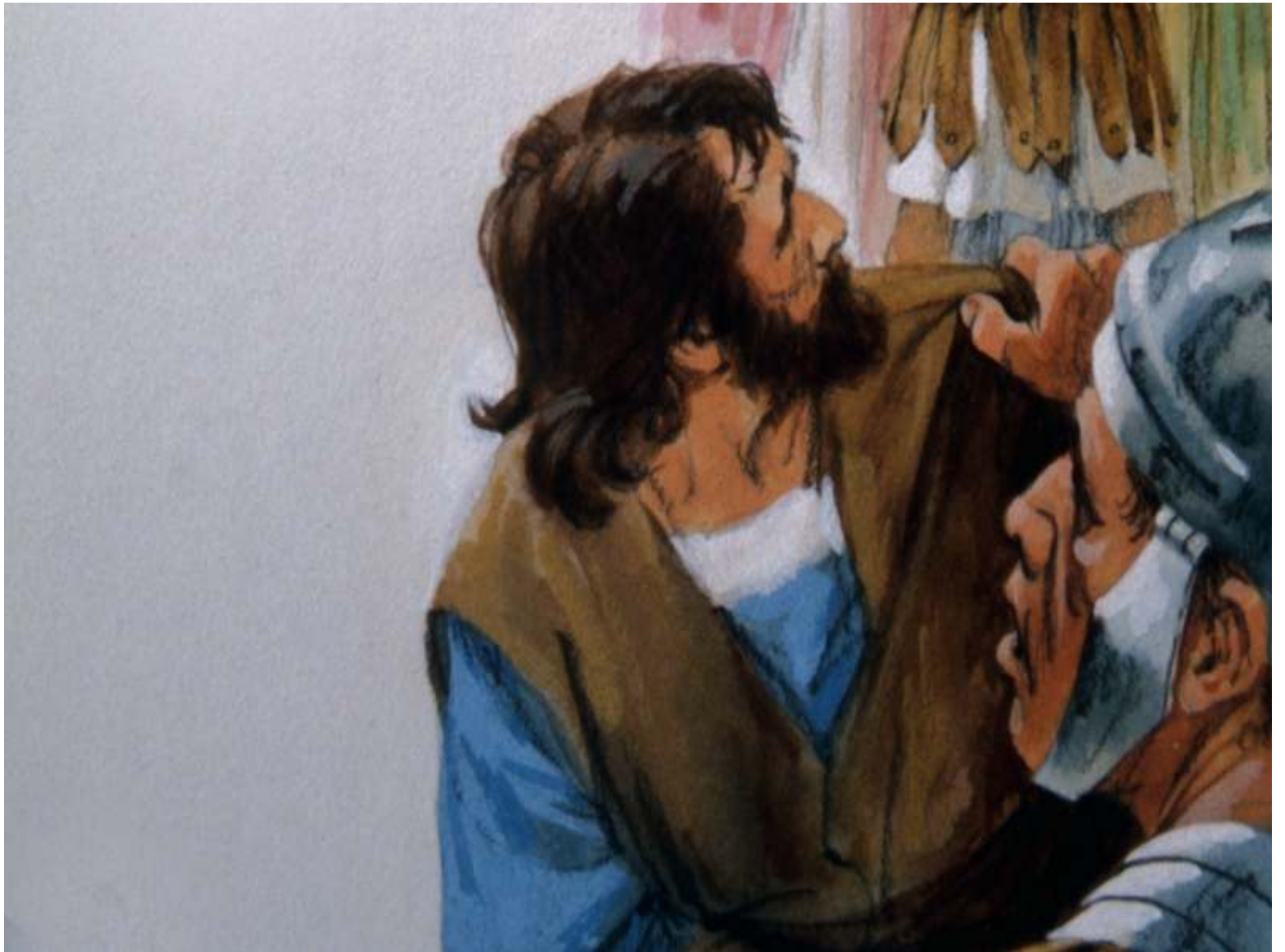
Luke 7:17

***This report concerning Him
went out all over Judea and in
all the surrounding district.***



II. THE DESPONDENCY ***OF THE SUFFERER*** ***(7:18-20)***

A. The Report (18)











A prison chamber near Machaerus





A cave in Machaerus presented as the presumed prison where John the Baptist was kept before beheaded.

- ***Matthew 25:43***
- ***I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'***
- ***Luke 3:19-20***
- ***19 But when Herod the tetrarch was reprimanded by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the wicked things which Herod had done,***
- ***20 Herod also added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.***





II. THE DESPONDENCY ***OF THE SUFFERER*** ***(7:18-20)***

A. The Report (18)

B. The Restlessness



- ***Desert & wide-open spaces... narrow walls of dungeon***
- ***Liberty... chains***
- ***Preaching.. dirty prison***
- ***No change in situation***



- ***Restless, discouraged, despondent***
- ***Why?***
- ***Bothered by purposelessness***

II. THE DESPONDENCY ***OF THE SUFFERER*** ***(7:18-20)***

A. The Report (18)

B. The Restlessness

C. The Reaction (19-20)

- ***Luke 7:19-20***
- ***19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”***
- ***20 When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’”***
- ***John’s question doubting Jesus is the Messiah?***

- ***John 1:29-34***
- ***29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”***
- ***32 And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.***
- ***33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’***
- ***34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”***

- ***Doubt?***
- ***Perplexity – the state of being confused because something is difficult to understand***
- ***Not we doubt Jesus***
- ***In perplexity, confusion & discouragement want to know why***
- ***If God so powerful, why can't do something for me?***
- ***When is God going to do something to release me from this prison of pain since He is so powerful?***

- ***Widow done for Jesus so felt obligated to take away her pain?***
- ***John's devotion obvious – given life to preparing for Messiah***
- ***Look around – took away his pain & her pain – why not do it for me?***
- ***God isn't doing things according to our expectations***
- ***God has everything under control***



III. THE DEPENDENCE ON ***THE SOVEREIGN (21-23)***

A. The Miracles (21)

III. THE DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVEREIGN (21-23)

A. The Miracles (21)

B. The Message (22)

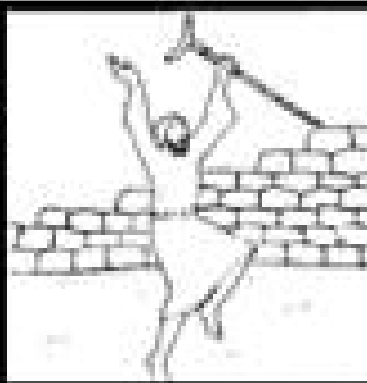
The Miracles of Jesus Christ

"The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them."

Matt 11:2-6



Blind See



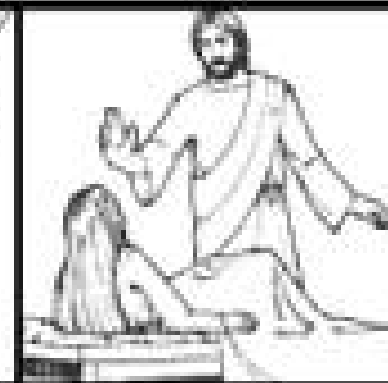
Lame Walk



Lepers Cleansed



Deaf Ears Hear



Dead Raised

III. THE DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVEREIGN (21-23)

A. The Miracles (21)

B. The Message (22)

C. The Maturity (23)

- ***Luke 7:23***
- ***Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”***
- ***“Blessed is he whomsoever does not get upset by the way I run My business” (Vance Havner)***
- ***Didn't need answers to mysteries of life***
- ***Trust Jesus no matter how confusing the ways of Lord to him***

Questions never have answers:

- 1. Why do good people suffer?**
 - 2. Why do babies get sick, suffer & die?**
 - 3. Why does it seem like serving God doesn't always pay off in this world?**
 - 4. Why is this world filled with sickness, suffering, sorrow & death?**
- Psalm 115:3**
 - But our God is in the heavens;**
 - He does whatever He pleases**



- ***God always has a reason for doing things His own way***
- ***Why God put so many vitamins in spinach & not in ice cream***
- ***No explanations***
- ***Luke 7:23***
- ***Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”***
- ***Just trust Me***

- ***“He was a healthy, robust boy on Tuesday, he got sick on Wednesday & he died on Thursday. You would have liked him – everyone did”***
- ***“It is awful & horrible & sad & no words can comfort his four grandparents, his brother & sister, his friends or his parents”***
- ***“If God had come to you 17 years ago & said, ‘I’ll make you a bargain - I’ll give you a beautiful, wonderful, happy & healthy kid for 17 years & then, I’ll take him away,’ you would have made that deal in a second.***
- ***And that was the deal – we just didn’t know the terms”***

- ***John in prison but not because Jesus can't get him out***
- ***God multiplies illustrations of power to control & change circumstances but not for us***
- ***Something better for John***
- ***“No” to John so get infinitely more***

- ***Daniel 3:15-18 (NLT)***
- ***15 I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?***
- ***17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.***
- ***18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."***

- ***2 Corinthians 12:9***
- ***And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”***
- ***Luke 7:23***
- ***Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”***
- ***Luke 7:24-28***
- ***24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?***

- ***25 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts.***
- ***26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.***
- ***27 This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'***
- ***28 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."***

- **2 Corinthians 12:9**
- ***And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”***
- ***“I don’t understand this”***
- ***“I never asked you to understand this – all I ever asked you to do was to trust Me”***
- **Luke 7:23**
- ***Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”***
- ***In prison of perplexity, trust Him***

***Trust
Amid
Suffering***

