

Sermon Guide:

Luke 7:1-9

Takeaway:

_____ is different than _____.

From Nouwen:

“*Caregiving* and *curing* are distinctly different from each other. People who are sick or who have a disability often demonstrate how care and cure are different. This truth is far from obvious, however, and certainly not very acceptable in contemporary society where we are, as a culture, more occupied with cure than with care ...

“As caregivers primarily concerned with cure, we may not experience much satisfaction being with people who are chronically ill or dying. The main reason for this is because they constantly confront us with the limitations of our power to heal, and with the undeniable reality of death. [But if we] accept that we are unable to control the inevitable, and that we ourselves will also surely die, we become liberated to be true caregivers—people who are not primarily trying to cure but rather to care in the deepest sense of that word.”

Henri Nouwen, A Spirituality of Caregiving (46-48)

For Reflection:

How comfortable are you discovering your inability to cure?

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. *Introduction:* Who is someone in your life that you have loved no matter what or who has loved you no matter what?
2. *Application:* Have you ever experienced a single criticism or setback that outweighs numerous other successes and commendations? How do you respond to moments like these?
3. *Scripture:* The centurion sends a second set of friends to insist on his unworthiness. Why might he have thought it so important to let Jesus know?
4. *Scripture:* Jesus says he hasn't encountered faith like this before. What might that mean? How might we have faith like that?
5. *Application:* What are some ways we might unintentionally imply that care should be deserved? How might we show otherwise?
6. *Application:* Caring without the potential for a cure can be very tiring and feel like a heavy burden. How might we recognize our limits and handle not being able to fix everything?
7. *Conclusion:* How can we pray for one another this week?

Join us to discuss these questions and more this Wednesday at 6pm!

Discussion Questions for Kids:

1. Sometimes, we all make mistakes. How do you feel when you make a mistake on something?
2. God will always love you, no matter the mistakes you make. Who else can you think of that will also love you no matter what?
3. *Pray:* Dear God, thank you for always loving me. Amen.