

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Disappointed with Jesus?

Luke 7: 18-23

We return today to Luke's Gospel. Following the accounts of Jesus healing the Centurion's servant and raising the only son of a widow from the dead, Luke reports the visit of a delegation from John the Baptist. John, who is now in prison, is beginning to wonder if he has been mistaken.

I. John the Baptist Questions Jesus

- A. John's early history and message
 - 1. Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:15-36)
 - 2. He must increase but I must decrease (Jn 3:25-36)
 - 3. The drama of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River (Mt 3:13-17)
- B. The passion and preaching of John & the revival fire of a national movement
- C. The rise of popularity of Jesus' ministry and the arrest of John the Baptist (Lk 3:19-20)
- D. Questions, reflections, & doubts

II. Disappointment with Jesus

(False advertising and misguided personal agendas set us up for a shipwrecked faith.)

- A. We hope to escape the social consequence of sin
- B. We hope to restore broken human relationships (Mt 10:34-38)
- C. We hope for miraculous healing and escape from suffering (II Co 12:7-9)
- D. We hope for financial gain and release from the consequence of foolish spending
- E. We hope for the release of emotional and psychological pain without the deep work of transformation and sanctification (Mt 10:38-39, Rom 6:12-19)

III. Then What Good is Jesus?

- A. He frees us from sin's guilt, penalty, and power, bringing true peace
- B. He restores our relationship and intimacy with God
- C. He gives us His personal, divine, abiding presence to guide and comfort
- D. He offers wisdom and wonderful counsel in every situation
- E. He invites us to join Him in significant, meaningful, eternal work
- F. He promises us:
 - 1. peace in the midst of trouble
 - 2. courage in the face of fear
 - 3. joy in the midst of tribulation
 - 4. comfort in the time of sorrow
 - 5. hope in the tragedy of loss
 - 6. eternal life in the face of death
- G. He is our ALL in ALL, the Great I AM, the Friend that sticks closer than a brother,

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'" At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you identify false expectations you may have had in following Jesus?
2. Have you heard people evangelize, offering false promises of salvation?
3. In the seasons of life, what are the times most beneficial in strengthening your faith and relationship with Jesus?
4. In major point III can you find at least one Scripture passage that supports each statement about Jesus and His true promises?

NOTES

man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: “‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’”

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

Jesus went on to say, “To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

“‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’”

For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say,