

Luke 7:1-35

We are going to be looking at a pretty large portion of Scripture this morning: Luke 7:1-35. We are going to focus most of our attention on verses 18-35, so let's start out there. We are going to see 3 primary points in our text this morning. Luke 7...let's jump to verse 18.

I. John's Doubts v1-20

Let's jump to verse 18: *18 The disciples of John reported to him about all these things.*

What are "these things" that the disciples of John reported to him?

1. Go back to Luke 7:1-10

7:1 When He had completed all His discourse in the hearing of the people, He went to Capernaum.

2 And a centurion's slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die. 3 When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave. 4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "He is worthy for You to grant this to him; 5 for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue." 6 Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself further; for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof; 7 for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." 9 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith." 10 When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

2. Luke 7:11-17

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.

- a. Here is a woman who had lost her husband, and now her only son has died as well.
- b. For a woman like this in the first century, she had no hope.
- c. She had no one left in her family to provide for her.

13 When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her, and said to her, "Do not weep." 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.

- a. So Jesus sees her and has compassion on her.
- b. Then, in his compassion, Jesus goes to the widow's son and raises him from the dead.

16 Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!" 17 This report concerning Him went out all over Judea and in all the surrounding district.

- a. fear came upon everyone
- b. God has visited His people
- c. Immanuel, God with us.

Now, let's pick back up in verse 18.

18 The disciples of John reported to him about all these things. 19 Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?" 20 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?'"

1. John the Baptist saw the heavens open
2. He saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus
3. He heard the voice of God declaring Jesus as His beloved Son
4. He heard about the things Jesus had been doing in verses 1-17!
5. And yet he doubted.
 - a. Things did not turn out like he wanted or thought they should so he doubted.
 1. He likely thought that the Messiah would overthrow the Romans and rule from the Temple in Jerusalem...like most Jews of his day.
 2. Now, he is in prison, and Jesus, far from overthrowing the Romans, is being quite subtle, meek, and mild.
 3. Things did not turn out like he thought and now he is doubting his own sermons.
 - b. **Our circumstances, in spite of the reality around us, have great power and influence over us don't they?**

Some of you, if not externally like John, internally struggle with doubts.

1. You doubt that the Bible is true.
2. You doubt and struggle over what you believe about Jesus.
 - a. Was he really born of a virgin?
 - b. Was he really sinless?
 - c. Did he really work all of those miracles?
 - d. Did he really die on the cross?
 - e. Did he really rise from the grave?
 - f. Is he really coming again?
3. You doubt and struggle over whether or not you are truly born again.
4. Guess what? You are in good company!
 - a. You are just like John the Baptist
 - b. John is struggling with doubts and he verbalizes it!
 - c. He sends his disciples to Jesus to point blank ask...are you really who I said you were?

II. Jesus' Testimony

A. To the Baptist v21-23

21 At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. 22 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. 23 Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

1. He is acting out His first sermon for these witnesses from John
2. Luke 4:18-19 *"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE*

CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”

3. He is making it clear that Isaiah’s prophecy that he quoted in the synagogue is about Him!
 - a. He releases captives right in front of their eyes!
 - b. He gives sight to the blind on the spot.
 - c. He preaches the gospel to the poor, and then said, “go tell John about that!”

See the mercy and grace of Jesus as he sends a clear, powerful example back to John.

1. He didn’t have to do that...He could have said, how much more proof do you need John?
 - a. You prepared the way for me!
 - b. You baptized me, heard the FATHER’s voice, and saw the Spirit descend upon me!
 - c. You have heard about my miracles and you are still struggling!
2. But look at his mercy. He provides a powerful affirmation that He is the one who Isaiah prophesied about!
3. In grace and mercy he sends testimony to John

Some of you are likely thinking...

1. I struggle with doubts....doubts over what is and isn’t true...doubts over whether I am or am not saved.
2. I struggle with doubts and I bet Jesus is angry with me. He has probably actually left me to myself.
3. That is not what we see here! He sends a testimony directly to the doubter.
 - a. He can do the same for you!
 - b. He may be doing it for you right now through this message!
 - c. Send a message to him and ask...are you the expected one?
 - d. He might just send an answer!

Don’t miss this!

1. Jesus in his mercy sent John a powerful illustration and affirmation of who he is
2. However...he didn’t do one thing about John’s circumstance and situation.
 - a. I am not going to physically set up my kingdom at this time.
 - b. You are going to remain in prison...and in fact you are about to lose your head.
 - c. But that doesn’t change the reality: I AM.
3. It is one thing to ask Jesus to affirm the truth to you...but don’t interpret that to mean he is going to give you your best life now.

B. Concerning the Baptist v24-27

24 When the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the crowds about 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 dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces! 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. 27 This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’

1. Jesus, describing John said he is more than a prophet!
 - a. Malachi 4:6 *He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.*

b. Luke 1:17 *It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

2. Jesus still honored and respected John the Baptist even though he doubted.

28 I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John;

How many of you know that what you think about yourself is not nearly as important as what Jesus thinks about you?

1. John is doubting and struggling from prison, but Jesus said, let me tell you something about John
2. He is the greatest man born among women!
3. What you think of you is not nearly as important as what Jesus thinks of you.
 - a. If you have repented, believed, called upon his name you may still see your sin and failures but he doesn't
 - b. If you have been born again, and transformed by the power of the gospel, you may still feel the guilt of your sin, but he see's them as paid in full
 - c. If you have confessed Jesus as Your master and Lord and have believed in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you may see your failures and shortcomings, but he see's you as perfectly holy!
 - d. You may be wrestling with all kinds of doubts...but how does Jesus see you...let's see!

28 I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

1. Are you in the Kingdom of God? Have you turned, trusted and transformed?
2. You are greater than even John the Baptist! You are in a better place than John.

III. The Jews' Frustration v29-35

29 When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God's justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.

31 "To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'

1. You did not respond like we wanted you to Jesus!
 - a. We wanted you to dance to our flute and you didn't
 - b. We wanted you to weep at our dirge, but you didn't
2. You did not do what we wanted you to do when we wanted you to so we will not believe

33 For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!' 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' 35 Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

1. You didn't like John and You don't like me.
2. You can't please these folks!

Some of you here are wanting Jesus to dance to your tune!

1. I want a Jesus who will help me make a lot of money...a Jesus who will bless my business....a Jesus who will heal my sicknesses....a Jesus who will help my team win...a Jesus who will give me my desires.
2. You are struggling with doubts and wrestling with what you believe because Jesus has failed to meet your expectations!
3. We create a Jesus in our own image because we don't care for the real Jesus...and that is one reason some of us doubt and struggle.
4. Oh we don't need the Jesus we "think" we need. We need the Jesus of the Bible. We need the real thing! Do you have the real thing?

THE GOSPEL