

Luke 7:11-35 – Dealing with Doubt



Questions from February 22, 2026

(1) Even the Strongest Believers Can Have Doubts

- ❖ John was the greatest man to ever live up to this point.
- ❖ Even experiencing miracles did not protect John from doubt.

(2) Most Doubts Have a Backstory

- ❖ Suffering, depression, tiredness and unmet expectations.
- ❖ These dark periods have a way of distorting our perspective.

(3) Jesus' Response is both Encouraging and Challenging.

- ❖ Jesus does not shame John. He compliments him.
 - And Jesus points to the evidence of His identity.
- ❖ But Jesus does not explain himself to John.
 - He basically says, "Trust me. You've seen enough to believe. Don't be so offended by me that you fall away."
 - God can handle your frustration, but don't give up.

(4) There are 3 kinds of doubt: Intellectual, Emotional, and Willful

- ❖ The first two can continue to trust God even when they don't fully understand, or feel like it.
- ❖ But the third is unwilling to believe. It is unbelief.

(5) God Reveals Himself to the Humble and Sincere.

- ❖ Proud people are overly confident in their understanding.
 - They judge God, and move the goalposts of proof.
- ❖ But God opens the eyes of the humble to see His glory.

Ice Breakers

- (1) Share how you are doing and pray for each other.
- (2) Can you think of a belief you began to doubt and no longer hold?

Digging Deeper

- (3) Read Luke 3:19-20; 7:11-20 and Points 1 & 2. John's disciples just reported an incredible miracle of Jesus. So why is John doubting?
- (4) Read Luke 7:21-28 and Point 3. Explain Jesus' answer—how might it have encouraged John, but also challenged or frustrated him?
- (5) Read Point 5 and Luke 7:29-35. Explain how this passage relates to the topic of doubt and belief in Jesus.

Living Out

- (6) Read Point 4. Can you give some examples of intellectual, emotional, and willful doubt? Have you experienced any of these? Explain why the first two are not necessarily sinful, but the third one is.
- (7) Read 2 Cor 4:6 and 2 Timothy 3:15-16. It is good to find answers for intellectual doubt through study, and find relief from emotional doubt through healthy activities. Yet, Pastor Dave said the key to dealing with doubt is to remind yourself of your spiritual sight. A Christian can "see" God's glory in the good news about Jesus—its truthfulness, its moral power, and its correlation with other evidences of God's reality (in your life, in others' lives, in history and in nature) in a way that becomes so clear and compelling it is self-evident.
 - Does this make sense to you? Why or why not?