

When Faith Feels Fragile

(The Good Physician: The Gospel of Luke)

Text: Luke 7:18–30

INTRODUCTION — When the Strongest Start to Waver

If I asked you to name the greatest man in the New Testament, apart from Jesus, most of us would probably say *John the Baptist*.

He was bold, fearless, and faithful. He stood in the wilderness and thundered out the Word of God. He baptized Jesus Himself, saw the heavens open, and heard the voice of the Father saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

And yet—by Luke chapter 7—John is sitting in a dungeon, his ministry apparently over, his life hanging by a thread. He sends two of his disciples to Jesus with this question:

“Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (v. 19)

John—this fiery, faithful prophet—now doubts.

That’s shocking at first. But if we’re honest, it’s also comforting. Because we’ve all had moments when our faith has felt fragile.

When the doctor’s report wasn’t what we prayed for.

When the job we depended on disappeared.

When the miracle didn’t come, the prayer wasn’t answered, the light didn’t break through.

And in those moments, we start to wonder, “*Lord, are You really who You say You are? Are You really at work in my life?*”

So today’s message is for the weary believer, the honest struggler, the disciple who still believes but needs a little help with their unbelief.

Let’s listen in as Jesus ministers not only to John’s doubt—but to ours.

I. STRONG SAINTS SOMETIMES STRUGGLE (vv. 18–20)

“Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

John’s question sounds startling, but it reminds us: **doubt doesn’t disprove your faith—it describes your humanity.**

John had seen incredible things:

- He’d baptized Jesus and seen the Spirit descend (Matt. 3:16).
- He’d heard the Father’s voice (Matt. 3:17).
- He’d pointed his followers to Jesus: “Behold, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29).

But now, he’s locked away by Herod for preaching righteousness (Luke 3:19–20). The man who once stood beneath open skies now sits behind cold stone walls.

And in the silence, he wonders: *“If Jesus really is the Messiah, why hasn’t He set me free? Why does evil seem to win? Why am I still here?”*

That’s where doubt begins—not in rebellion, but in disappointment. When what God does doesn’t match what we expected.

Doubt isn’t a sign of failure; it’s often the growing pain of faith.

- Abraham wondered if God would really give him a son.
- Elijah hid in a cave after calling down fire from heaven.
- Thomas said, “Unless I see the wounds, I won’t believe.”

And yet, all of them met a faithful God in the middle of their uncertainty.

Illustration:

A massive oak tree bends under a storm. The branches whip, the trunk leans, but the roots hold. The storm doesn’t show weakness—it shows how deep the roots go.

Friend, if you’re wrestling today, you’re in good company. Even John doubted. Even the strong struggle.

II. THE SAVIOR SPEAKS AND STRENGTHENS OUR STRUGGLE (vv. 21–23)

“Go and tell John what you have seen and heard...”

John’s disciples arrive with the question, and how does Jesus respond? He doesn’t scold John. He doesn’t sigh and say, “Really, John?”

Instead, Jesus turns their eyes back to what He’s doing.

“The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news preached to them.”
(v. 22)

Every phrase echoes **Isaiah 35** and **Isaiah 61**—prophecies about the coming Messiah. Jesus’ answer is gentle but powerful:

“Go back and remind John of what God is doing.”

Jesus doesn’t argue. He **assures**.

He doesn’t lecture. He **lights the way**.

Then He adds,

“Blessed is the one who is not offended by Me.” (v. 23)

He’s saying, “Don’t stumble over My methods. Don’t lose faith just because I’m not working the way you expected.”

When our faith feels fragile, Jesus doesn’t push us away—He points us back to His works and His Word.

Illustration:

A lighthouse doesn’t remove the storm—it just gives you enough light to keep steering in the right direction.

When life feels foggy, God rarely gives us the full map. He gives us a lamp for our feet and a light for our path (Psalm 119:105).

Application:

- When doubts come, don’t hide from Jesus—run to Him.
- When faith feels weak, rehearse what God has already done.

- Look at the lives changed, the grace given, the cross, the resurrection—signs that He is who He says He is.

III. THE SAVIOR STILL SEES OUR STRENGTH (vv. 24–28)

“Among those born of women, none is greater than John...”

After John’s disciples leave, Jesus turns to the crowd. And what does He do? He praises John!

He says, “John wasn’t a reed shaken by the wind.”

He didn’t waver in conviction—he just had questions about circumstances.

Jesus doesn’t define you by your weakest moment.

He defines you by your faithful identity in Him.

John’s doubts didn’t cancel his calling.

Your questions don’t erase your relationship with Christ.

Illustration:

A climber hangs on a rope halfway up a mountain. His grip trembles, but the rope holds firm. The safety lies not in his strength, but in the rope’s strength.

That’s faith—it’s not about how tightly you hold on, but how securely Jesus holds you.

Application:

- Don’t let doubt have a permanent room in your heart—it’s a guest, not a resident.
- Bring your questions honestly to Jesus.
- Trust that He still sees your faith, your devotion, your heart.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Jude 22 — “Be merciful to those who doubt.”
- Mark 9:24 — “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”

- Psalm 73:26 — “My heart and my flesh may fail, but God is the strength of my heart.”

CONCLUSION — When Faith Feels Fragile

John the Baptist—the man who prepared the way—found himself wondering if Jesus was really the One.

And Jesus met him not with rebuke, but with reassurance.

Friend, when faith feels fragile, remember:

- Jesus is still faithful.
- The evidence of His grace is all around.
- Your doubts can drive you deeper, not farther, from Him.

So don't let your doubts dominate you—let them direct you back to Jesus.

He is still healing, saving, forgiving, transforming—and He is still Lord, even when you can't see it clearly.