# Jesus...In the Gospel of Luke
# Confronting Doubt Head-On

Luke 7:18-23

Pastor Mel Svendsen
November 8, 2026

**Bottom Line:**
John the Baptist struggles through doubt as he wrestles with "Is Jesus who He claims to be?" Jesus did not rebuke John for asking the question. Instead, Jesus pointed John back to the evidence of His identity by reminding John of His miracles as a fulfillment of God's prophetic promises.

**Doubts,** if approached biblically, can lead to greater growth and confirmation of our faith in our lives, as well as making us more effective witnesses for Christ.

1. Go to God's Word and remember His Plan and Promises! Luke 7:18-23; 2 Cor. 1:20

Jesus was effectively saying,
"John, look at what God promised. Look at what is happening. Consider whether My ministry fulfills the words of the prophets."

**Now What?**
When doubt begins...open your Bible.
Revisit the promises of God.
Read the Gospels again.
Remind yourself who Jesus is and what He has done.

2. Bring your doubt (your struggle) to Jesus; He can "handle it"! Luke 7:18-20; Phil. 4:6-7

One of the encouraging aspects of John's story is that he did not allow his doubts to drive him away from Jesus. Instead, he sent his disciples directly to Jesus!

**Now What?**
Be honest with God. Tell Him what you are struggling to understand. Ask Him to strengthen your faith, clarify your thinking, and help you trust Him even when you cannot understand His purposes.

3. Find strength...and answers...in community with other believers! Luke 7:18-19

**Now What?**
When you are struggling with doubt, do not withdraw from church, Bible study, or Christian relationships. Seek out a mature believer, pastor, or trusted Christian friend.

4. Be reminded of God's goodness and love to you in the past! Luke 7:22-23; Psalm 77:11-12

**Now What?**
Develop the habit of remembering. Think about answered prayers, difficult circumstances through which God sustained you, people He placed in your life, and the ways He has demonstrated His grace.

5. Focus on God's eternal purposes rather than your immediate circumstances! Luke 7:22-23; Romans 8:18

**Now What?**
When life becomes difficult, ask yourself: Am I evaluating God's goodness based on what I am experiencing right now, or am I trusting what I know to be true about His character?

6. Keep your focus on Jesus taking every thought captive to glorify Him! Luke 7:23; Philippians 3:7-8

=