

A MENTOR WE CAN FOLLOW
LUKE 7:18–35
RICK ELZINGA

Introduction:

Luke 3:7–9

Luke 3:19–20

Luke 3:15–16

John 3:25–30

Luke 7:18–20)

Context: Two healing miracles

Matthew 11:2 John is in prison.

Lesson: Even the most godly person can have times of questioning, especially when suffering.

Luke 7:21–23) Who Jesus is

“not offended by me”

We need to conform our expectations to who Jesus really is, not try to conform Jesus to our expectations.

Luke 7:24–28) Who John is

John is the bridge between OT prophecy and NT fulfillment, and therefore the greatest of the prophets.

Jesus is not excluding John from the kingdom of God (Luke 13:28).

Luke 7:29–34) Who the religious leaders are

God has a purpose for each person, but he allows his purpose to be rejected/resisted.

“they declared God just”=they justified God (same as v35)

The Jewish leaders should have let humble John be their mentor!

Can't win either way with these people. They reject whomever God sends.

They want John and Jesus to fit their expectations = pride.

Luke 7:35) God's wisdom is shown to be right by those who follow it.

The following context about the sinful, humble woman and the proud Pharisee illustrate this verse.

Conclusion:

As a mentor, John the baptizer has taught me:

1. I too should be preparing people to receive Jesus.
2. It's okay to question.
3. I need to adjust my thinking to fit who Jesus really is.
4. I have a long way to go in being humble, but I must continue in the direction John models.

Questions for Personal Meditation and Group Discussion

1. Do you have a living mentor today? How can you get one?
2. Who in the Bible has been a mentor to you? What key lessons have you learned from them?
3. What kind of questions/doubts do you have when you experience hardship?
4. In what ways do you want Jesus to fit your desires instead of accepting him as the Bible presents him?
5. What lessons do you learn from John the Baptist?