



Bible study for the week-March 7, 2021

Luke 7:18-35

PRAY & INTRODUCTION

It is March already! WOW ... and this Thursday, 3/11, is officially the St. John's celebration of the anniversary of "the great shutdown". It has been a wild year. Some of you have been impacted enormously and others have experienced very little change. In our text today, some believe that it has been as long as one year that John has been imprisoned for calling out the sin of his earthly king. The sermon focused heavily on the motivation of John in sending his disciples to Jesus to ask some questions. Let's look at the text again and ask some of our own. Please pray, acknowledging and inviting the Holy Spirit's presence and power to be at work as you study and share.

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

Read Luke 7:17-23 & Matthew 11:2 & John 1:29-34

Jesus' miracles were being reported throughout Judea and the surrounding regions. These reports reached John the Baptist in prison. Pastor's main point was addressing this question, but do you have any insights to add regarding John's question?

Notice and discuss the significance of the order of events in verses 18-22.

To understand more clearly the significance of Jesus' response read Isaiah 29:18 and Isaiah 35:4-6.

How might people be offended by Jesus as he challenges in verse 23? Read the following verses to support this concept: Isaiah 8:14-15; Romans 9:32; 1 Peter 2:8; John 6:60, 66

Read verses 24-30.

When Jesus referred to a reed shaken by the wind, what do you think He meant?

Jesus contrasted those who believed what John the Baptist was preaching and teaching and who were baptized by him (see v. 29) with those who did not. Discuss those differences.

What was the message of John's baptism (see Luke 3:3)? Discuss why some rejected his message.

Ironically, the Pharisees and lawyers who should have known the most about the forerunner and the Messiah rejected John's message. Why? Was Jesus' message the same as John's? (Matthew 4:17)? We have the same dangers today. "Me? Repent? From what?" It's a great day to hear the message personally.



John and Jesus – Part III - Luke 7: 18-35

March 7, 2021 – Pastor D. R. Hilken

John and Jesus I & II

John and Antipas I & II

John and Jesus III --- The hard QUESTION

Doubt I & II

- I. Doubt which reflects DIFFICULTY in understanding
- II. Doubt which reflects a DEFIANCE of will

- 1.** Doubt I is neither unnatural nor unfaithful

Ways to adjust what we are seeing:

- a. AVOID or simplify
- b. we use what we DON'T understand to avoid what we DO understand
- c. we trust what we don't understand based on WHAT WE DO UNDERSTAND

- 2.** sincere doubt can lead to a deeper faith
Luke 7:20-28

- 3.** a sincere heart may still doubt
Doubt I – Luke 7:29-30

Doubt II – Luke 7:31-35

God often does not work

ACCORDING TO OUR EXPECTATIONS

- 4.** doubt can be used as a powerful truth checker

Ask yourself:

"Do I WANT this to be true?"... or

"Why might I WANT this to not be true?"

The opposite of doubt is CLARITY
and CAN be the greatest danger