

1. Intro

- Last week, Luke recorded the story of an unlikely person, a Roman officer, who approached Jesus with faith. Jesus was amazed at his faith as he expressed how Jesus could heal his sick slave without even coming to his house.
- Contrasting that amazing faith, this week we will read about someone who had doubts about Jesus, and we may be surprised who was doubting!
- Two sermonettes today:
 - First, we'll discover that doubting or questioning Jesus is normal, but there's a blessing when people still trust Him despite their doubt.
 - Second, we'll see that Jesus called John the Baptist the greatest person who ever lived, and we'll talk about what made him so great in Jesus' eyes.

2. Text: Luke 7:18-35

Luke 7:18-20

- John the Baptist **doubted** if Jesus was the Messiah.
- Having doubts about Jesus is actually **common** and **normal**.
- What did John do with his doubts?
 - John did not **hide** his doubts from Jesus nor did he turn away from Him; but rather, he took his doubts **directly** to Jesus (via his 2 disciples)!
- We may have doubts or questions about Jesus:
 1. When people treat us **unfairly** as a response to our obedience to Jesus.
 2. When Jesus doesn't work the way we **expect** Him to.

Luke 7:21-23

- Jesus **affirmed** to John that He was indeed the Promised Messiah.
 - Jesus told John's disciples to go back and tell John about all the **miracles** Jesus had done, that they had just seen and heard about. (Isaiah 35:3-6)

- God **blesse**s those who do not fall away because of me (Jesus).
 - **Isaiah 26:3** “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”
 - (ESV - “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.”)

Luke 7:24-35

- Jesus affirmed to the crowd that John the Baptist was indeed the **prophet** sent by God to prepare people to recognize and believe that Jesus was the Messiah.
- Jesus declared the **greatness** of John the Baptist.
 - What made him great?
 - John put his personal **ambitions** aside and simply did what God asked Him to do. He was faithful to obey God, no matter the **cost**.
- Jesus appealed to the crowd and challenged them to **choose** carefully who to follow: the established **religion** or Jesus Himself.

3. Application

- Are you currently doubting or questioning God in some way? Don’t stuff or hide your questions, go to God with them. Also, go to a mature believer and discuss it with them.
- Jesus said John the Baptist was the greatest man ever to live. Do you want to be great? By whose standards do you want to be great? The culture’s or God’s? Let’s make our life ambition to follow Jesus and obey Him no matter the consequences (and despite our doubts!), just like John the Baptist did.
 - **Matthew 6:31-33** “**31** “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ **32** These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. **33** Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”