

113. John the Baptist Sends Disciples to Jesus (Luke 7:18-35)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You sent Jesus to be our Savior, and You gave Jesus power to do miracles and show He is the Savior. Thank You for sending Jesus to faithfully serve us. Help us to live serving You, and not become bothered when other people don't like our service. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Luke 7:18-20. John the Baptist's disciples told him about everything Jesus was doing. John called two disciples. He sent them to Jesus to ask, "Are You the coming One (the Savior), or should we look for someone else?" The two men went to Jesus. They said, "John the Baptist sent us here. He wants us to ask You, 'Are You the coming One (the Savior), or should we look for someone else?'"

- John was stuck in prison. He sent two disciples to Jesus to find out what?
- John knows he will probably die soon. Why do you think he sent the two men?

Luke 7:21-23. At that time, Jesus was healing many people who were sick or had evil spirits, and He made blind people see again. Jesus told the two men, "Go tell John what you see and hear. The blind can see, the lame people walk, people with leprosy become healthy, deaf people can hear, dead people are raised alive, and the good news is preached to poor people. The person who doesn't lose faith in Me is blessed."

- When the two men arrived, what was Jesus busy doing?
- Jesus could have said, "Yes, I am the Messiah." But He didn't say that. Why do you think Jesus gave the long answer about what He was doing? (Remember what the Old Testament said about the Messiah, also the study about teachers and their actions, #111, Matt. 7:15-20.)

Luke 7:24-27. John's two disciples left. Then Jesus talked to the crowd about John. Jesus said, "Why did you go into the desert? To see what? The wind blowing on a reed (plant)? No, then what did you see? A man wearing fancy clothes? No. People wearing fancy clothes and having riches live in palaces. What did you go see? A prophet? Yes! I tell you, you saw more than a prophet. John is the one the Bible talked about, 'I will send My messenger before You. He will go before You and prepare Your way.'"

- Who did the people think John was?

- Who did Jesus say John was?

Luke 7:28. Jesus said, “I tell you, from all the people born from women, no one is greater than John the Baptist. But the person who is least important in the kingdom of God is greater than John.”

- This can be a confusing statement. We will see two ways to understand it. This is the first way. In Jesus’ teachings, which did He say is more important, pride or humility? Serving or ruling? So why can an “unimportant” person in God’s kingdom be great?
- This is the second way to understand it. Who are all the people born from women? Who are all the people in the kingdom of God? Who is greater, a person only born from a woman, or a person in God’s kingdom?

Luke 7:31-34. Jesus said, “How can I describe this generation of people? What are they like? These people are like children who sit near the stores. They yell out to people, ‘We played music for you, but you didn’t dance. We sang a funeral song, but you didn’t cry.’ John the Baptist came and he didn’t eat bread or drink wine. You said he has a demon. The Son of Man came and He ate and drank. You say He eats too much and gets drunk, He is a friend with tax collectors and sinners.”

- The people didn’t like John and they didn’t like Jesus. How did John live? What did they say about John?
- How did Jesus live? What did they say about Jesus?
- Can you make everyone happy? Should you even try to make everyone happy?

Luke 7:35. Jesus said, “Wisdom’s results prove that wisdom is right.”

- Who or what proved that Jesus is right? Jesus’ miracles? The Jews? Jesus? God the Father? Us? All believers?