



Jesus & John (The Baptist) Luke 7:18-35

COMPOSITE PICTURE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

- ▶ Miraculously orchestrated birth (Luke 1:5-25)
- ▶ Righteous, holy man (Mark 6:20)
- ▶ Very austere lifestyle (Matthew 3:4; Mark 1:6; 2:18)
- ▶ Baptized people in the Jordan River (Matt. 3:5; Luke 3:2)
- ▶ Baptism of repentance & preparation (Matt. 3:6; Mark 1:4)
- ▶ He was not the Christ (Matt. 3:11; Luke 3:15-16; John 1:20)
- ▶ Sent to prepare the way for the Christ (John 1:23; cf. Isaiah 40:3)
- ▶ Recognized Jesus as the Christ (John 1:29-34)
- ▶ Baptized Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:13-15; Mark 1:9)
- ▶ Preached boldly (Matt. 3:7-10,12; Luke 3:7-14)
- ▶ Arrested & imprisoned (Matt. 14:3-4; Mark 6:17; Luke 3:19-20)
- ▶ Had disciples who visited him (Luke 7:18; 11:1)
- ▶ DARK DUNGEON OF DOUBT (Luke 7:18-23)
- ▶ Beheaded by Herod Antipas (Matt. 14:10; Mark 6:27)
- ▶ Buried by his disciples (Matt. 14:12; Mark 6:29)

PRINCIPLE #1: Repentance always precedes salvation & life with God.

PRINCIPLE #2: Sometimes God allows His servants to die for the sake of the Kingdom.

JESUS' ASSESSMENT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 7:18-28)

- ▶ Unwavering
- ▶ Unspoiled
- ▶ More than a prophet
- ▶ Fulfillment of Malachi 3:1
- ▶ Last of the OT prophets
- ▶ Ranked highest among men

PRINCIPLE #3: He that is least in what is greatest is greater than he who is greatest in what is least.

REJECTION OF JOHN & JESUS (Luke 7:29-35)

- ▶ Response of the general public... (Superficial) belief, confession & baptism
- ▶ Response of Israel's religious elite... Unbelief & rejection of both divine messengers
- ▶ Final verdict about John the Baptist... He's demon-possessed
- ▶ Final verdict about Jesus Christ... He's a glutton & a drunkard

PRINCIPLE #4: You will know them by their fruit. (Results vindicate the method.)

JOHN'S DARK DUNGEON DOUBT (Luke 7:18-23)

PRINCIPLE #5: Doubting is not necessarily a sign of weakness or sin.

PRINCIPLE #6: Spiritual doubts are often birthed in the land of faulty expectations.

- ▶ OT Messianic Methodology: Isaiah 26:19; 35:5-6; 61:1-2

LifeGroup Questions - Doing Life Together

Week of August 26-September 1, 2018



Jesus & John (The Baptist)

Luke 7:18-35

Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time praying that God will guide your time together. Praise Him that He welcomes our questions and understands our doubts.

MY STORY

1. Share something interesting about your summer.

DIGGING DEEPER

2. What from Sunday's message really stood out to you? What did you learn from it?

3. Read **Luke 7:18-20**. Why do you think John the Baptist sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus, "*Are you the One to come, or should we expect someone else?*"

4. Describe something that happened in your life that caused you to question or doubt God. What question did you want answered, who did you ask, and what answer did you receive?

5. Read **Luke 7:21-23**. How did Jesus answer the inquiry from John's disciples? In your opinion why didn't Jesus just give a simple "Yes" or "No" answer? How do **Isaiah 35:5-6**, **Isaiah 61:1-2** and **Malachi 3:1** apply?

6. Read **Luke 7:24-28**. Jesus could have easily criticized John the Baptist for his doubts. But instead, in these verses, Jesus offers glowing, public affirmation of John. Why? What does this tell you about how God views doubting among sincere believers?

7. Read **Luke 7:29-34**. These verses address different responses to both John the Baptist and Jesus. Turn on your imagination and put yourself in 1st century AD sandals. How do you think you might have responded to news about this "strange man" baptizing people in the Judean wilderness? Disgust? Curiosity? Belief? Rejection? Other?

8. Read **Luke 7:31-34**. What did Jesus compare the men of his generation to? Explain in your own words the point that Jesus is making regarding the ministries of John the Baptist and Himself, and those in Jesus' day who rejected both John's and Jesus' ministries.

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

9. Read **Matthew 3:1-15**. What qualities does this passage reveal about John the Baptist? What quality most challenges or inspires you in your own life? Why?

TAKING IT HOME

10. How has this study affected you? What is your biggest take away?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group and ask God to help you even in your doubts to become a more committed follower of Christ.