

Shall We Look for Another?

Luke 7:18-35 ▪ Sunday, June 1, 2025 ▪ Brad Manley

_____ is John the Baptist? (24-30)

Why did John have _____? (18-23)

Why human culture will not _____ John or Jesus? (31-35)

Luke 7:18-35

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." ²⁹ (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹ “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.” (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What is something outlandish you have heard recently?

Read & Discuss: Luke 7:18-35

1. What was your initial reaction to John's question to Jesus in verse 19 (“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”)? What does this question reveal to us about John’s perspective on Jesus? What does this tell us about the nature of doubt, even for those committed to God?
2. What do John’s doubts tell you about him and about how we should view the role of doubt in our own lives? How does Jesus’ response to John in verses 22-23 give you added perspective on how we should understand the implications of doubt? What do you do when you have doubts about God?
3. Jesus directs John’s disciples to report to John the many miracles taking place through Jesus’ ministry (v. 22). Why might this have been important for John to consider? (*See Isaiah 35:5-6; 61:1*) What are some further “evidences” of God’s work that you see in your own life or in the world today? How do all these evidences strengthen your faith?
4. Jesus describes John as “more than a prophet” (v. 26). What makes John so unique in salvation history? How can understanding John’s role help us have greater confidence in Jesus’ role?
5. John’s message had been pointing to the ultimate judgment Jesus would bring to the world (*See Matthew 3:10-12*), yet Jesus’ ministry was predominately one of compassion, mercy, and grace. How do you think this could have factored into John’s questioning of Jesus at this point?
6. As Jesus then speaks to the crowds in verses 24-35, what picture does He paint of John? In what sense do you think a member of the “kingdom of God” is greater than John (v. 28)? What was Jesus intending to emphasize by saying this?
7. Both John and Jesus faced criticism for not fitting people’s expectations. What does this passage teach us about the dangers of trying to gain acceptance from the culture as we serve God?
8. What is meant by using the proverb “wisdom is justified by all her children” (v. 35)? How do John’s and Jesus’ ministries, though different in style, both demonstrate God’s wisdom? How should we manage our expectations in life, given God’s methods don’t always align with our expectations?

Apply: What is one thing from this passage that resonates with you personally? How might you intentionally reflect further on that truth in the coming days?

Pray: Pray for humility as we bring our doubts and questions to God, while also asking for eyes to see and hearts to embrace the evidence of His kingdom working in and around us.