

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 3

SEEKING CONFIRMATION

PART 4

Is Jesus THE One?

READ LUKE 7:18-23

INTRODUCTION

The question that John the Baptist asks in these verses is not only a fair question, it is one that people continue to ask to this very day. Was Jesus the Messiah? Was He just another prophet? John wanted to know if this was the end of the waiting for the nation, the world. Also, it is important to remember that John was in prison at this time. He was literally waiting for his death sentence to be passed down. Here was the Man he thought was the Messiah, who was supposed to free every captive and yet, John was not freed.

It is possible that John was going through a time of doubt in his life. Maybe this Jesus was not the Christ that the people were looking for. Maybe there would be someone else. To be sure, he sent two disciples to go inquire of Jesus confirmation of who He was. It is hard, sometimes, to trust that Jesus is who He says He is and to know that He has all the power to heal and to set free and yet, there are times, He doesn't. Admittedly, that is complicated and difficult. This is where we look to Isaiah 55:8-9 and trust that God knows what He is doing.

Jesus' response to John's disciples is interesting as well. He performs miracles and reminds John that the prophecies concerning the Messiah were being performed. (Is. 35:5-6, 61:1) This would have been a great encouragement to John because these were the miracles that were prophesied and he could be assured that Jesus was the One who was able to perform them. Jesus was not asking John to just trust Him blindly. He was providing factual evidence that Jesus was who He said He was and who John thought He was. This would've given John a boost to continue on in faith.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Was Jesus the Messiah? How do we know? Is it something that you can articulate to an unbeliever?
2. Why was there doubt that Jesus was who He said He was? Was His purpose fulfilled or did He fall short of expectations?
3. Do you struggle with doubting Jesus? Is that a bad thing? Why? How do we combat doubt?
4. Do you take comfort in Isaiah 55:8-9? Why or why not? How can those verses help us trust God practically?
5. What about the miracles of Christ would've been encouraging to John? How can we take encouragement from them? Would it have been easy for John in your opinion to hear that Jesus had the power to free him but didn't?

WRAP UP

Trusting Christ is something that many have had a very difficult time doing for a very long time. There are a lot of tangibles that we do not have regarding who Christ is and this makes faith so important. We must have faith that Jesus is who He says He is and is capable of doing anything but also, we must have the patience to understand that He doesn't answer to us and the trials and temptations that we struggle with are for His purpose and His glory. We continue looking to Him.