

Insights from Luke

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Doubter"
Luke 7:18-35

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“¹⁸ The disciples of John reported to him about all these things. ¹⁹ Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, ‘Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?’”

One
Personal Tragedy.

Two
Misconceptions about the Messiah.

Acts 1:6
“⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’”

Three
Incomplete view of the Messianic Plan.

Four
Completely wrong expectation???

Luke 7:21-23

“²¹ At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. ²² And He answered and said to them, ‘Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. ²³ Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.’”

Matthew 12:38-42

“³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.’ ³⁹ But He answered and said to them, ‘An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; ⁴⁰ for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. ⁴² The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.’”

Matthew 16:1-4

“¹ The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. ² But He replied to them, ‘When it is evening, you say, “It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.” ³ And in the morning, “There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.” Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? ⁴ An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.’ And He left them and went away.”

Blind receive sight
Lame walk
Leper’s cleansed
Deaf hear
Dead raised

Isaiah 61:1

“¹ The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners.”

Luke 7:24-25

“²⁴ When the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the crowds about John, ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces!’”

Luke 7:26-28

“²⁶ ‘But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written, “BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.” ²⁸ I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.’”

Malachi 3:1

“¹ ‘Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

John 1:29

“²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”

Propitiation
Expiation

Luke 7:29-30

“²⁹ When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God’s justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.”

Luke 7:31-35

“³¹ To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, “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, “Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” ³⁵ Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

The Dirge of John’s Message

The Light-Hearted
Jesus – the Gospel

Matthew 11:19

“¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

**There is nothing wrong with
Christians who experience
doubt, but when doubt occurs
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**John’s doubt was
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Matthew 22:29

“²⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.’”

Psalm 1:1-3

¹ How blessed is the man who does not walk
in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
² But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
³ He will be like a tree firmly planted
by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
and its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Joshua 1:8

“⁸ This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

**The Pharisees and many of
the large crowds following
Jesus were the churchgoers
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Familiarity

Shallowness

“Reformation theology failed to make clear that the core of sin is lack of self-esteem.”

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“Salvation means to be permanently lifted from sin . . . and shame to self-esteem and its God-glorifying human need-meeting, constructive and creative consequences.”

Shuler, Self-Esteem, The New Reformation, 98. (1982)

The religious leaders rejected Jesus’ claim to be a friend to sinners while we must be a friend to sinners by directing them to Jesus who has the answers for their sin.

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