

Rediscover Jesus

Part 18: Jesus and John the Baptist | Luke 7:18-35

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God's reality of the Christ is greater and wiser than any of our expectations of him.

I. John questions Jesus (vv. 18-23)

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?'"

Luke 3:17 = His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, **but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.**

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."

II. Jesus affirms John (vv. 24-28)

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."

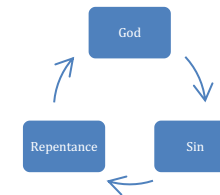
²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

1 Peter 1:10-12 (NLT) = This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. They wondered what time or situation the

Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward. They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

III. People respond to Jesus (vv. 29-35)

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."

Life Application

1. Are there any doubts or questions you have that remain undealt with? Are you "disappointed" by God? Go and talk to him.

2. Are there any sins that you are ignoring, covering, excusing, or justifying? Repent of them to God and confess them to one another to experience and enjoy God more.

3. Are you following your own wisdom or the wisdom of God? Grow in God's wisdom through God's Word, God's people, and good books.