



Ask for any “top of mind thoughts” from the sermon this past Sunday before you dive into the scripture. Ask if there has been anything that God has been teaching anyone during this study of Luke and specifically the “power and posture” portion of this study.

Read Luke 7:18-35 or have someone read this passage.

“The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 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?” 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?’” In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 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. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” 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? 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. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ 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.” (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

““To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?”

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.’ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ 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!’ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

Luke 7:18-35 ESV

Here is a little background - John the Baptist is in jail now. Do a little reminding of who John the Baptist is – cousin of Jesus. Recognized Jesus while he was still in Mary’s womb. A bit of wild man (eats locusts, hangs out in the wilderness and realizes his role to point to the person of Christ.)

John’s disciples have been seeing and hearing the things of Jesus and John sends two of his disciples to go ask Jesus if he’s the One that John has been proclaiming about all his life. (Interesting that John begins to doubt but then again our circumstances can sure makes us doubt too.)

Jesus responds to John’s disciples by just continuing to do healings and what He has been doing all along.

After the disciples of John leave Jesus speaks to the crowd about John. He addresses the “commoners”, the leaders, the Pharisees and the least (the commoners) are able to celebrate that in Christ’s eyes (the One that matters) they are greater than the ones who proclaim to be better than them (the religious leaders).

John the Baptist seems to have forgotten or at least to doubt that this one doing these great things might not be -

- the one He knows as Jesus from the beginning
- the Jesus, the One that they have been waiting on all these years to deliver them.

He became imprisoned by doubt.

Ask, What are some things that cause you to doubt?

Michael talked about **The Posture of Doubt**

Ask, what might the posture of doubt look like in your life? (these are the crowdsourcing answers Michael got from the congregation - *Head down, cynical, slouching, unsure face, negative, confused, hesitant, depressed*)

What about your faith? – God is always faithful but our eyes can sure get cloudy when we find ourselves in the middle of a difficult circumstance or season of life.

And . . . The Power of Doubt

Fear sets in and can lead us to inaction and paralysis. What are some other reactions you have? (some might include anger, irrational thoughts, etc. and lead us to start looking for a *better* rescue. – these can lead us to pursue comfort in all manner of things other than Christ)

What is the Posture of Jesus in this passage

(when the messengers of the doubting John approach Jesus)

- unchanging (He keeps healing and doing what He's about – healing)
- unpersuasive (he does not change the minds of the leaders) Jesus does not twist our arms to believe in Him. He allows us to choose our own path. This can become very frustrating when people we love pursue routes that are not about Christ.

What is the Power of Jesus?

- unchanging (He does not change to attract others)
- Unpersuasive (He does not coddle and woo us)
- Man of His Word (Are you a promise keeper?) Keep your promises.

He tells John's disciples to remind John – Scripture is so important for us as Christ-followers. It reminds us of God's faithfulness in all things, at all times, in every situation.

Read Isaiah 35:4-5; Isaiah 8:14-15 ; Isaiah 40:3

God's Word helps to remove doubt. Put your nose in the book and allow it to speak truth your doubting heart and mind.

Remind the group -

Doubt is bound to visit, but don't let it move in. Doubt is normal but not dwell with you. When you dwell on doubt, it will deconstruct your faith.

Doubt to do list

worship (centered on Who God is not our feelings)

- Remember who God is
- Remember what Jesus has done
- Remember what His Word says

- Live a blessed life (based upon who Christ is not on how you feel)

Worship is the antidote to doubt – it is important that we change what we worship when we find ourselves unfaithful to the One who is always faithful.

Be sure to read these two statements and allow people to think about these –

- As you worship, God temptation will have poor soil to take root in your life.
- If you worship anything other than God, you will sin to get it and sin to keep it.

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together.