

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

LUKE CHAPTER 7:18-35

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT?" – PART 1

THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Faith, Doubt, Service, Ministry, Ability

Background To the Message vs. 18-35

Jesus now having raised the young man from the dead in view of enough people, the word began to spread that this was someone who was more than a prophet, he was the One whom the prophets foretold of...

They Had **Eyewitnesses And Advantages**, Over us, Buy We Have
the Great Revelation of Scripture...

Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. 19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" :20 When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'" 21 And that (or in that) very hour He (Jesus) cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind - He gave sight. :22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." :24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning 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 clothed in soft garments. Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to 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 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least

in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” :29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified (to agree with) God, having been baptized with the baptism of John (repentance, acknowledgement). 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him (unable to repent, acknowledge, agree with God). :31 And the Lord said, “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: “We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.’ 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, “He has a demon.’ 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, “Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ 35 But wisdom is justified by all her children.”

The Case: 18-21

In the midst of the greatest messenger this world has ever know, in the face of whom, the Bible itself was written of, and being able to physically see Jesus Christ face to face, Doubt arises in the most unlikely places!

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The Cure: 22-28

Jesus will combat fear and doubt with reality. He will produce evidence that demands a verdict. Jesus will bring all those with whom He comes in contact with to the point of decision based upon the facts.

:22 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” :24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning 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 clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to 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 For I say to

you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

The Call: 29-35

Once becoming aware of what Jesus Christ has said and done, we're the ones placed in the seat of judgment. Each and every human being will be given the opportunity to make a determination about Jesus Christ in this life. Their judgment of God lies in accepting or rejecting his invitation to believe in Him.

:29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him. :31 And the Lord said, “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: “We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.’ 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, “He has a demon.’ 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, “Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ 35 But wisdom is justified by all her children.”

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT?

Defining Doubt!

The **Webster** Dictionary Defines Doubts as;

To waver or fluctuate in one's opinion; to hesitate; to be in suspense; to be, or to become "uncertain", respecting what is truth or fact; to be undetermined, resulting in fear.

Charles **Spurgeon** Defined Doubts as;

Doubt is having faith in the devil

The **Bible** Defines Doubt as;

a lack of faith or a lessening of faith as in seasons or situations.

And Your **Pastor Jack** Defines Doubt as:

"a pain in his faith"

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT?

1.) Because doubt comes natural

The Bible teaches us that we are all "**alienated**" from God.
That we're born "naturally" into this world **void of knowing God** by Faith.
we are not born with an "**Automatic - Faith In God**"

If We Never Hear The Word of God
and Never Come to a Personal Faith in God,
as time goes on, our doubts will either **remain** or **increase**
until there is no room for faith in our little lives.

because insecurity is natural to us.
the fear of failing is natural to us.

but this is a manifestation of sin in our lives.
(because we're not believing in what God has said.)

Defining Doubt,

Luke 7:19-21

Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. 19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" :20 When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another? 21 And that (or in that) very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

Background to John's Doubt

Matthew 14:1-4

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, :2 and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him." :3 Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, :4 for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her."

In a Season of Doubt, John, (the) Baptist Asks
Is Jesus the One?

Christian, In Your Struggle with Doubt, Cheer-Up!

John Could Not Have Been Closer to Jesus

he knew Jesus all his life, John was Jesus' cousin, John was six months older, his conception and birth was a miracle too. he had a great ministry from God.

You Might Be Thinking That Today
is Jesus really my Savior, is He really God, is He really my Lord?

There is Only One Answer - Read His Book

Romans 10:17

So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

.....
Verse 22
.....

:22 *Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

This is The **External Evidence** of Who Jesus Is. But There is An **Internal Evidence** Also.

Jesus - "Judge Me According to The Scriptures John"

Isaiah 35:5-6

And when He comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf. **:6** The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will shout and sing!

Isaiah 29:18

In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

Isaiah 61:1

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*;

What Does the Evidence Say John, Jack, Jerry, Jim bob?

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT?

2.) *Because doubt won't disappoint*

Doubt, Because It's In Us,
It Creeps Around In Secret, Quietly, and Always ***Justifiably***

Justifiably? - Cuz Doubt Says Things Like;

"Someone Else Can Do It Better" // "I'll Look Stupid"
"There's So Many Other People Better at It than Me"

We Struggle with That Because We're Not **Designed to Doubt.**
we were made to walk with God, to Fellowship with God, to Know God.

Acts 18:23

After he had spent some time *there*, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, **strengthening** all the disciples.

strengthening eipisthri÷ZW episterizo,
to shore up, to add more support, to reestablish again.

When We Take Our Eyes Off Jesus,
Doubt Creeps in and We 'Take Charge"
But What are We Taking Charge of?

"I Have seen ""**Christians**"" fall away from following Jesus
because they did not get from **Santa**, I mean Jesus what
they wanted."

The Think They're Punishing God, but are literally fulfilling biblical scripture;

Matthew 13:18

"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **20** But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **22** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces..."

**Listen Young Man, Young Lady;
I Will Give You The Words of the Fool;**

"Never Expect Anything Much to Happen, Never Think Big, Never Look Beyond, and you'll never be disappointed, you have let-downs because you'll never have any up-lifts."

There's a Twisted Truth to That - But you'll

wake-up someday and your life has passed you by
and missed amazing things.

You Will Have Watched Others Pass You By

Luke 19:12-26

He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. **:13** Before he left, he called together ten servants and gave them ten pounds of silver to invest for him while he was gone. **:14** But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say they did not want him to be their king. **:15** "When he returned, the king called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what they had done with the money and what their profits were. **:16** The first servant reported a tremendous

gain—ten times as much as the original amount! :17 ‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a trustworthy servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’ :18 “The next servant also reported a good gain—five times the original amount. :19 ‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You can be governor over five cities.’ :20 “But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘I hid it and kept it safe. **(the fear of disappointment)** :21 I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’ :22 “‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Hard, am I? If you knew so much about me and how tough I am, :23 why didn’t you deposit the money in the bank so I could at least get some interest on it?’ :24 Then turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who earned the most.’ :25 “‘But, master,’ they said, ‘that servant has enough already!’ :26 “‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘but to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.

Verse 23

*And blessed is he who is not **offended** because of Me.”*

skandali÷zw skandalizo, *skan-dal-id'-zo*; someone who gets tripped up, pulled away, set aside -
(contextually, because of doubt)

Spiritual Timidity,

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT?

3.) *Because doubt gets nothing done*

Doubt is a "**Time**" and "**Opportunity**" Bandit

Doubt has No Problem with **Non Essentials**.

Things That - In The End Will Not Matter!

When Doubt is at Work - it says...

"we'll just stick to what we're familiar with."

Doubt Never Ventures Out, So It Gets Nothing Done for God

DOUBT WILL DEBATE THE ISSUES,

It Will **Argue** a Cause, It Will **Talk** About It.

but it never gets anything done that makes a difference.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. **14** If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss;

The Cure:

Jesus will combat fear and doubt with reality. He will produce evidence that demands a verdict. Jesus will bring all those with whom He comes in contact with to make a decision based upon the facts.

:22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." :24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning 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 clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to 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 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT?

4.) Because doubt opposes faith

but how does doubt oppose faith?

by what doubt thinks

this is **crazy**, who in their right mind would..."

by what doubt says

"it's not going to work, **it's gonna flop**, we're going to die."

by what doubt causes

"doubt causes either **apathy** or **panic**

Example of Apathy;

The Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:40

Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? **41** Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."**42** Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." **43 And He came and found them asleep again,**

Example of Panic

Late Night Boat Ride

Matthew 14:22

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and to go before Him over to the other side of the sea... **24** But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. **:25** Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. **26** And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, *they were terrified, (in unity) saying, "It's a ghost!"* And they cried out for fear.

WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT?

5.) *Because doubt is easier*

Doubt Looks Easier Because It's Deceiving.

.....
Verse 29-35
.....

:29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him 31 And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation (who are they?), and what are they like (what do they do)? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: "We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep." 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, "He has a demon." 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" 35 But wisdom is justified by all her children. (watch and see how they turn out)." = watch those tax collectors and sinners, just watch them and see)

Jesus Exposes What's Inside Them

*"You Judged **John** by Saying, "we played a happy little tune for John, but he never danced, he's too serious for us. A dead beat!*

*You Judged **Jesus** by Saying "we played a sad and depressing song for you Jesus, but you wouldn't get depressed, You just kept on smiling. You're too up-beat for us, too "happy" all the time and encouraging."*

Raising People from Dead, Making People Walk Again,
you should be ashamed of yourself Jesus, - - people like you!

Having Faith in Jesus Christ is not of This World.
Faith Looks Hard, Seems Strange, Not Normal

It's Funny Isn't It;

A Man of Doubt is Revered in The World as "a Levelheaded Man",
"Why, He's Got Both Feet on The Ground." - He Has His Wits About Him".

See, Doubt Fits in Better, It's More Popular, It's Reasonable, Practical

The Call:

Once we become aware of what Jesus Christ has said and done, we're placed in the seat of being judge. Each and every human being will be given the opportunity to make a determination, a ruling about Jesus Christ in this life. Their judgment of God lies in accepting or rejecting his invitation to believe in Him and in His Only Son at The Cross.

:29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him. :31 And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: "We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.' 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, "He has a demon.' 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' 35 But wisdom is justified by all her children."

.....
Verse 30
.....

But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected [the will of God] for themselves
They Rejected the Will of God for Themselves by Justifying Themselves

"NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A MAN'S ABILITY TO JUSTIFY HIMSELF"

-Jack Hibbs

there's always a "But" from the Pharisees and lawyers

[the will of God]

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward,
not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Luke 3:3

And he came into all the country about Jordan,
preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

They Could Not See Their Need for Jesus Christ.

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith,
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

The Great Puritan, John Owen Wrote;

*"He who has small thoughts about sin,
has never had great thoughts about God"*

Verse 31-32

Jesus Employs, from His day, a "Real-Time" Couplet.
two lines or sayings to illustrate a truth - - "Ripped Right Off The Front Page"

And the Lord said; 31 "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: "We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep."

Hey John the Baptist, *"We played the flute for you, And you did not dance;*

Hey Jesus the Christ *"We mourned to you, And you did not weep."*

(That Was Their Verdict Then)

By Telling Us This,

Dr. Luke Gives The Results of Their Spiritual Autopsy
Conclusion – They're Really Poor, and Blind, and Naked, and Empty

But **Christian** Listen, And **Seeker** of God,
Be **Encouraged** - **Doubt** can be a sign that a man is thinking.... but be warned, **Unbelief** is a sign that man is dead!

Revelation 3:16-17

But since you are like lukewarm water, I will spit you out of my mouth! :17 You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Do You Have a Case of the Doubts? Watch Out for that Doubt,
Because it Could Turn Into Unbelief, Unbelief Kills Faith

End of Study