

"The Case of the Doubting Baptist!"

Luke 7:18-20

A. The Context for this Passage

1. The amazing _____ of the centurion (7:1-10)
2. The amazing _____ of Jesus (7:11-17)
3. The amazing _____ of John the Baptist (7:18-23)
4. The amazing _____ of John by Jesus (7:24-28)

B. The Circumstances in this Passage

1. For _____ (3:19,20; Matt 14:1-12)
2. For _____ disciples (5:33; John 1:35-42; Acts 19:1-7)

C. The Confusion for John (7:18-20,16,49; 9:9, 19, 20)

1. Hears of Jesus' _____ (7:17,18)
2. Asks if Jesus is the _____ (3:16;
Matt 3:14-17; John 1:29-34; 3:29,30; 4:25; 6:14,15)

D. The Case for Believing Doubt

1. Defined:
 - a. Doubt is a matter of the _____ struggling to _____ what God is _____. (Mark 9:24)
 - b. Unbelief is a matter of the _____ refusing to _____ God's Word and _____.

2. Discerned:

- a. In Abraham (Gen 17:17; 18:12; Heb 11:8-19)
- b. In Moses (Ex 3 & 4; Numbers 11:10-15; Heb 11:24-28)
- c. In Elijah (I Kings 19; Matt 17:1-3)
- d. In Zechariah (Luke 1:6, 18-20, 68-79)
- e. In Believers (Matt 8:26; 14:31; 21:21; 28:17; John 20:24-28; II Cor 1:8,9)

E. The Cause of John's Doubt

1. His personal _____ (3:19,20)
 - a. _____ life and ministry (7:28; John 3:29,30)
 - b. Freedom for _____? (4:18; Isa 61:1)
2. The popular _____ (1:67-79; Deut 18:15-18; Isa 9:6,7; 11:6; Daniel 7:13,14; Mal 3:1; 4:5,6)
3. His _____ revelation (24:25-27; Acts 1:6; Psalm 22; Isa 53)
4. His particular _____ (3:7-9,16,17)

F. Some Conclusions for Us

1. Recognize that honest _____ can be a good place to _____, but not a good place to _____. (Mark 9:24; Acts 17:11)
2. Realize that our _____ are often related not to what God is _____, but to what God is _____.
3. Remember that our _____ circumstances are always _____ to the _____ and _____ of God.
4. Resolve that whenever you _____ God, you don't have _____ the _____.

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Next Time: ***"A Bout with Doubt!"*** (Luke 7:21-23)