



## A Friend of the Skeptical

Jesus: The Caring Friend - Part 3 of 8

March 10 & 11, 2018

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**Big Idea:** Although He will never remove their necessity of placing trust in Him, God works with honest skeptics to help bring clarity where there is confusion, and to bolster their confidence in Him.

Text: Luke 7:18-35

### I. WHERE DOES DOUBT COME FROM?

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" – Luke 7:18-19

#### Common Causes of Doubt:

**Disillusioning** \_\_\_\_\_

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### II. WHERE SHOULD WE GO WITH OUR DOUBTS?

When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?' " – Luke 7:20

### III. HOW DOES THE LORD FEEL ABOUT OUR DOUBTS?

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. – Luke 7:21

So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." – Luke 7:22-23

After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet." – Luke 7:24-26

**Two types of doubters:**

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“This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” – Luke 7:27-28

(All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.) “To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.”’ But wisdom is proved right by all her children.” – Luke 7:29-35

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

Luke 7:23