

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Jesus and John the Baptist” Luke 7

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 7: 19-35

1. John the Baptist in prison sends his disciples to Jesus

- a. The condition of John the Baptist at the time of sending two of his disciples
 - He was in prison, soon to be executed, likely very depressed and uncertain of his mission.
 - o So very similar like Elijah on Mt. Horeb
 - His vision of the Messiah became blurred. He needed assurance.
 - o “Are you the One or should we wait for another?” [v. 19]
- b. God’s servants are subject to depression and discouragement, and often need encouragement.
 - They need the prayers of the saints.

2. Jesus’ remarks about John the Baptist

- a. The Lord’s answer to John the Baptist:
 - The Lord gave full assurance to JB about His own mission and thus sent His encouragement. [v. 22]
 - “Don’t stumble over me; rise up and walk.” [v. 23]
- b. The Lord’s appraisal about John the Baptist
 - “Much more than a prophet, the greatest prophet [v. 28]” – JB was a special envoy of the Messiah, one who prepared the way of the Lord. This remark shows the appreciation of the Messiah of the short-term ministry of JB.
 - “He who is the least in the kingdom of God is greater than JB.” – indicates the lowly, humble position that JB took upon himself for his ministry. The Lord was telling His disciples to be humble like JB.
- c. JB’s ministry and the attitude of the people
 - The Lord rebuked the unresponsiveness of the people to the voice of JB to repent and to prepare the way to accept the Messiah. “We have piped to you, and you have not danced; we have mourned to you and you have not wept.” [v. 32]. How is our heart’s condition to the gospel’s calling?

3. Where are preachers like John the Baptist today?

- a. Who are considered as great preachers/ priests in today’s world?
 - Those who compromise and present themselves instead of Jesus Christ.
 - Those who love money and popularity more than the needy souls of people.
 - Those who choose honor and esteem more than suffering the reproach for Christ.
- b. Go out and look for God’s true servants like John the Baptist.