

John the Baptist

Luke 7: 18 - 35



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 is to come, or should we expect someone else?"



**Why did he ask this question?
What was in his mind?**

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. 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 cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."

**Look at the evidence
and the Bible**

He quotes Isaiah 35:5 & 61:1

**Draw your conclusion
about Jesus and his mission**



Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."



A gentle warning.

Watch that your faith is in the real person.

What do you do when Jesus doesn't do it your way?

After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness 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.



Praise for John

Humorous questions

They knew that John wasn't like these.



But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'



A great 'compliment' – the truth

**John's unique role
fulfilled prophecy
Malachi 3:1**

What did John prepare?

Jesus' implied claim about himself

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."



Was John not in the kingdom?

**John's human credentials
vs
Believer's spiritual blessings**

see Galatians 4:1

(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 the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)



**Repentance & Faith
vs
wilful unbelief & pride**



**Faith's response
leads to greater
understanding**

Jesus went on to say, "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 pipe 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.'



**You just can't please
some people!**

A sad generation?

But wisdom is proved right by all her children.



**The results with both John and Jesus
will speak for themselves**

The Blessing of being in the Kingdom

***The importance of doing the Lord's work
the Lord's way***

***When God does things His way
keep on trusting***