

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses  
of glory*

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: JUDY PLEAU

DATE: MAY 21, 2023

## Jesus Addresses John's Doubts While Affirming the New Covenant Luke 7:18-28

### John's unmet expectations concerning Jesus stir up doubt. (vv. 7:18-23)

1. John sends his followers to verify Jesus' messiah-ship.

**Luke 7:18** *The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'"*

#### Why did John doubt?

1. He was experiencing personal tragedy. (Matthew 11:2)
2. He was influenced by popular misconceptions about the Messiah. (Acts 1:6)
3. He did not have a full revelation from God.
4. He expected the final fulfilment on Malachi. (Malachi 4:1)

**Malachi 4:1** *"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.*

2. Jesus visibly fulfills OT prophecy and compassionately encourages John to stay the course.

**Luke 7:21** *In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receives their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.*

**Isaiah 35:5** *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;*

**Luke 7:23** *And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."*

## Jesus commends John's role in preparing the way for the Kingdom. (vv. 7:24-28)

1. John stood firm in the face of worldly influence.

*Luke 7:24* When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"

2. John denied himself for the sake of his message of repentance.

*Luke 7:25* What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

3. John inaugurated what other prophets had only predicted.

*Luke 7:26* What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell 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.'

*Malachi 3:1* "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me..."

## Jesus elevates the New Covenant over the Old.

*Luke 7:28* I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

## Reflection/Discussion

1. John's expectations for Jesus get in the way of his confidence in him. What did he do with his doubt and how does that encourage us? How have you seen doubt play out in your own life? What patterns can you develop to ward off unfounded expectations about Jesus?
2. Despite John's doubt, he stayed true to his calling – modeling dedication in attitude and action. How did this enhance his ministry? What can you learn/put into practice from his example (e.g., clothing, cars, social media, societal influence, etc.)?
3. Take time to discuss the advantages of the New Covenant over the Old. Read 2 Corinthians 3:6-18 and Hebrews 8:6-12.

### SONGS

"GOD SO LOVED"

"MAKE ROOM"

"MIGHTY TO SAVE"

"GOOD, GOOD FATHER"

Altamont Music Pastor: Shawn Hoelsch (shawn@vbc.online)

### BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 23,582.74

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 668,922.25

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 739,700.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:  
[Last Entry – 05/16] \$ 77,754.78

Note: Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please deposit the envelopes in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!