

# A Crisis Situation

## LESSON 7 – OUTLINE

- I. As John the Baptist wrestled with doubt, he sent two of his disciples to Jesus to ask if He really was the Christ.
  - A. Matthew’s account of this instance simply recorded John’s disciples asking their question and Jesus answering them (Matt. 11:2-6).
  - B. However, here in Luke’s account, we see that before Jesus answered John the Baptist’s disciples (Luke 7:20-23), He performed many miracles.

**In that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues,  
and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.**

**Luke 7:21**

- C. **“In that same hour”** implies that for nearly an hour, Jesus didn’t answer John the Baptist’s disciples, but He performed all of these healings and miracles.
  - D. Then He told these disciples to go back and tell John the Baptist what they had just seen and heard.
  - E. I’ve seen multiple miracles within a short period of time, but the Lord crammed raising people from the dead, blind eyes opening, deaf ears hearing, and the lame walking, all into one hour.
  - F. Imagine the impact this would have had on you!
- II. If Jesus wasn’t the Christ, then John the Baptist had squandered the anointing that was on his life, which nobody else in the history of the world had ever had.
  - A. He could have been an instrument of the devil instead of the instrument of God that he was separated to be.
  - B. This wasn’t just a flippant doubt that John the Baptist had; this was a crisis situation unlike any other in his life.
  - C. How did Jesus respond? “Go tell him what you’ve seen and heard.”

- III. Then, after John's disciples had departed, Jesus said that John the Baptist was greater than any Old Testament figure, including Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.
- A. Those were some pretty powerful words to be spoken by a man who was the most popular figure in the nation at that time.
- B. There John the Baptist was—rotting in prison, feeling lonely, and wondering, *What about me? I had a six-month ministry, and since then, I've been rotting in prison for years. Does anybody remember me? Does anyone even care?*
- C. When I saw this crisis situation that John the Baptist was in and how the Lord treated his disciples—ignoring them for an hour, healing these other people, and then sending them back with that message—I thought, *God, that just doesn't seem to meet the need. Then, after John's disciples had gone, You began to give all of these compliments. Why didn't You say that while his disciples were still there? Wouldn't that have blessed John more?*

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## **LESSON 7 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Read Matthew 11:2-7. What did John's disciples see and hear?
2. Who did Jesus say was blessed?
3. Read Luke 7:20-28. What did the people go out to the wilderness to see?
4. Who prepared Jesus' way?
5. According to Luke 1:80, John the Baptist waxed (grew) strong in what?
  - A. Spirit
  - B. Battle
  - C. Odor
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
6. How long was he in the deserts?
7. Read John 1:29. The Lamb of God takes away whose sins?
  - A. The twelve disciples'
  - B. Those who plead the blood of Jesus
  - C. Only those in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria
  - D. The world's
  - E. Those who deserve it
8. Read John 3:30. Who must increase?
9. According to Malachi 3:1, God's messenger prepares the way before Him with his what?
10. In whom would the people delight?

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## **LESSON 7 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MATTHEW 11:2-7**

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, [3] And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? [4] Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: [5] The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. [6] And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. [7] And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

### **LUKE 7:20-28**

When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? [21] And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. [22] Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. [23] And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. [24] And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? [25] But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts. [26] But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. [27] This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. [28] For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

### **LUKE 1:80**

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

**JOHN 1:29**

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**JOHN 3:30**

He must increase, but I must decrease.

**MALACHI 3:1**

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.