

The Stories That Remain

John The Baptist

Pastor Craig Sweeney | August 13, 2023

Thread: Doubt, confusion and even hesitation are inevitable; what you do then isn't.

"The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, and he sent them to the Lord to ask him, 'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?' John's two disciples found Jesus and said to him, 'John the Baptist sent us to ask, 'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?'" Luke 7:18 – 20 NLT

Wait! What did John just ask Jesus?

Why would John ask such a question?

What drove him to this moment?

- TIME - waiting messes with us all—even John.
- TRIALS - hardship and tensions add extreme, raw emotion to an already painful moment.
- The STORYLINE - isn't going as I anticipated.

"At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind. Then he told John's disciples, 'Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.' And he added, 'God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.'" Luke 7:21-23 NLT

Jesus' answer

"After John's disciples left, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. 'What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people who wear beautiful clothes and live in luxury are found in palaces. Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.'

"I tell you, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of God is greater than he is!"

"When they heard this, all the people—even the tax collectors—agreed that God's way was right, for they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and experts in religious law rejected God's plan for them, for they had refused John's baptism." Luke 7:24–30 NLT

Jesus explains John's purpose, place and his ministry in God's timeline.

- The kingdom of God is not contingent on what happens to John and his current trials.
- TRUST in me, not John.

Challenge

What to do when your faith sways in the wind like a reed?

- Expect the winds to come.
- Consider the effects of TIME, TRIALS, and STORYLINES to get a better vantage point on your wavering.
- Exercise your faith in Jesus again.
- Get your answers.
- Turn the corner.

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