


Signs of the Coming of Messiah

Luke 7:18-23


Presented by Bob DeWaay
July 15, 2007



Imprisoned John the Baptist hears about Jesus' works and teachings

- **Luke 7:18**


And the disciples of John reported to him about all these things.



The Imprisonment of John the Baptist


- **Luke 3:19, 20**

But when Herod the tetrarch was reprimanded by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the wicked things which Herod had done, Herod also added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.

 John the Baptist questions Jesus' identity


■ **Luke 7:19, 20**

Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?" When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, 'Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?'"

 John prophesied about the "coming One"


■ **Luke 3:16, 17**

John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

 John's questions are not unlike those of earlier prophets

■ **1Peter 1:10, 11**


As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.



Luke's summary statement about Jesus' powerful ministry

- **Luke 7:21**


At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind.



Luke's summary statement reminds us of Jesus' previous claim

- **Luke 4:18**


"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed,"



Messianic promises are being fulfilled


- **Luke 7:22**

And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them."


 Messiah comes in such a form that it takes a special blessing from God for one to not be “scandalized”


■ **Luke 7:23**

“Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”



Applications

- 1) It is not wrong to question matters of faith if you are willing to accept God’s answer
- 2) The presence of doubt does not prove the absence of faith
- 3) Jesus did what the OT said God would do, proving His divinity
- 4) Come to God on His terms


 1) It is not wrong to question matters of faith if you are willing to accept God’s answer

■ **John 20:24, 25**

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

1) It is not wrong to question matters of faith if you are willing to accept God's answer

■ **John 20:27, 28**

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

2) The presence of doubt does not prove the absence of faith

■ **Mark 9:23, 24**

And Jesus said to him, "If You can' All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

3) Jesus did what the OT said God would do, proving His divinity

■ **Isaiah 35:4 – 6a**

Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you." Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer . . .

3) Jesus did what the OT said God would do, proving His divinity

■ **Isaiah 29:18, 19**

On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, And out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the Lord, And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

4) Come to God on His terms

■ **1Corinthians 1:22 - 24**

For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

4) Come to God on His terms

■ **John 6:60, 61**

Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble?"

4) Come to God on His terms

■ **John 6:62, 63**

“What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

4) Come to God on His terms


■ **John 6:64, 65**

“But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

4) Come to God on His terms

■ **John 6:66, 67**

As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?”

 4) Come to God on His terms

■ **John 6:68, 69**

Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."