

## **LIFE Group Sermon Questions**

The Center of Everything: The Baptist

Pastor Josh Parsons

February 22, 2026

Luke 7:18-35



**THE ORCHARD**

### **Luke 7:18-35**

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?’” 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 receive 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. 23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” 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? 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. 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.’ 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.” 29 (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, 30 but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) 31 “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ 33 For John the Baptist came eating no bread and drinking non wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

### **Sermon Outline**

- I. To those who doubt (Luke 7:18-23)
- II. To those who do not believe (Luke 7:24-35)

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What did you learn today from the Scripture passage(s) that you didn’t know before? What is something that hit you in a fresh way?
  
2. If you’re comfortable, tell about a time when you experience doubt in your Christian life. What was it like? What helped? What *didn’t* help?
  
3. Where would you go in the Bible to show that all people *by default* do not believe in Jesus? Why is clarity on this Biblical truth important?

4. Who else in the Bible can you think of who struggled with doubt and uncertainty? What does their story teach you or how does their story encourage you?
  
5. Like John, just because we *know* something to be true doesn't always mean it's easy to *believe* it's true. Give an example from your own life. How is remembering and reminding others of what's true a help when in doubt? What does that say about your own time in the Bible? In LIFE Group? At church?
  
6. The Bible doesn't tell us why John was struggling with doubt, but Pastor Josh mentioned two possibilities: Jesus wasn't who John had expected and Jesus hadn't done what John wanted. How have you seen one or both of those things at the root of doubt (either in you or other Christians)?
  
7. What does it look like practically to "get our eyes on Jesus" when in the throes of doubt? *What* about him will be a help to you?
  
8. In [Luke 7:30](#), Luke describes those who didn't believe. Then in [Luke 7:31-32](#), Jesus gives an illustration of what they're like. Then in [Luke 7:33-34](#), he shows how that illustration had played itself out in real life in relation to the ministry of both John and Jesus. What are some reasons why people don't believe? Why might "the right arguments" and "truth bombs" not always effective in bringing about faith?
  
9. Jesus says in [Luke 7:28](#) that "the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than" John. In your own words, why is that the case?
  
10. How might laying out the blessings and privileges of the Gospel soften the hearts of those who don't believe?
  
11. How might laying out the blessings and privileges of the Gospel *encourage* the hearts of those who are wrestling with doubt?
  
12. Take a minute to recount how the privileges of the Gospel has blessed *you*.