

Sermon: Hope for the Doubting.

Series: Luke

Scripture: Luke 7:18-35.

Date: July 14, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a. While John was in Prison, he sincerely doubted Jesus as the Messiah. How have you genuinely experienced and engaged with doubts regarding your beliefs?
- b. The Pharisees deceitfully took offense to the person and works of Christ because they were blind to their deadness in sin and need of a savior. In what ways and situations do we deceptively engage with our doubts about our beliefs?
- c. John experienced doubts because he probably expected Jesus to save him from prison. How have sufferings, trials, and temptations contributed to your doubts about your belief?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a. Look closely at verses 26-29 again. What does it teach us about God, especially when we experience doubts and suffering? In what ways do we reject or accept God as just?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a. The Pharisees and lawyers deserved God's justice and wrath for rejecting God, but Christ took upon himself that wrath. How does that humble you in your relationship with God (as just) and your relationship with others?
- b. The grace of Christ can either be a foundation that builds you up or a stumbling block that causes you to fall (1 Peter 2:4-8). How can Christ's grace become a source of offense or a transforming agent in our lives, especially when we have doubts, experience suffering, or face temptation?

APPLICATION

- a) Discuss any that resonate with you as you think through the following application. ***As a church, we address our doubts by:***
- Welcoming doubts but not glorifying them.
 - Asking honest questions to receive honest answers/evidence.
 - Viewing doubts as an opportunity to grow in the knowledge of Christ

PRAYER

- Praise God for his justice that lifts the lowly and humbles the proud.
- Confess ways you have taken offense about God's attributes, will, and commands.
- Thank Christ for taking the punishment deserved for your rejection of God.
- Ask God for strength to grow in the knowledge of Christ's person and love (Eph 3:18-21).