

The Story Church - 2.5.23

A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 3: *Son of God, Son of Man*

Part Four: *Unmet Expectations*

SERIES INTRO: He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: **Can Christianity be trusted?**

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

REFLECTION QUESTION: Have you ever had unmet expectations in your relationship with God? What are they specifically and how have you addressed them?

In the passage today, we will see three things:

1. John's _____
2. Jesus' _____
3. Jesus' _____

John's Question

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

Luke 7:18-20

Does John the Baptist's question surprise you? Why do you think he asked it?

What does John the Baptist's question to Jesus teach us?

1. Doubt is not a _____
2. Take your doubts to _____

Jesus' Response

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Luke 7:21-22

How is Jesus' answer both a Yes and No?

Has God ever answered one of your prayer requests with a no? How did you respond?

What makes Jesus' grief over John the Baptist's death so interesting? What does it say about our own suffering?

Jesus' Challenge

Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.

Luke 7:23

How is this verse a challenge to you? Why is the gospel of Jesus offensive to many?

How should we deal with our unmet expectations ?

_____ - _____ - _____

Reflection Questions:

What questions do you have about God? When's the last time you brought them to Him?

How does Jesus offend you?

How can you Ask, Listen, and Accept this week?

** Find the full January Reading Plan at thestory.church/resources*