

Are You the One?

Luke 7:18-23

The disciples of John came to Jesus and asked Him a simple question that each of us should ask. "Are You the One?" Is Jesus the one who can heal what is broken in your life, give what is missing in your life?

I. True watchmen in your life will *only* point you to Jesus

There were obvious jealousies between the disciples of John the Baptist and the disciples of our Lord. "The disciples of John reported to (John) about all these things" (v. 18). "These things" are the works of Jesus and people all saying, "A great prophet has arisen! - God has visited His people!" (vs. 16-17).

(A). Some people mistakenly believe John doubted Jesus was the Messiah.

John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to ask: "Are You the One?" Why did John do this? Was He doubting? No. He is in prison, about to lose his life at the hands of Herod Agrippa. John already said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). There was no doubt in the heart of John who Jesus was. Why then send his disciples to ask?

(B). John's sole concern was the welfare of the men close to him.

This is the last act of John the Baptist before his execution. It's the last thing he does in this life. "John sent them to the Lord." (v. 19). Nothing greater of you than "You sent people to Jesus." Every pastor, every father, every mother, every teacher - anyone who has influence over others ought to make it their business in life to direct those they influence to Jesus Christ.

II. True witnesses to Jesus' power will profess what they've *experienced*.

John's disciples were sent to Jesus to ask the question and the Luke says "**at that very time...**" (v. 21). "Jesus cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. And He answered and said, 'Go and report.... what you have seen and heard'" (vs.21-22). Jesus offered no historic proof he was the Messiah. He gave them no account of what others said. He pointed to changed lives: the blind see; the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed; the dead are raised.

(A). Arguing doctrine may exercise the head, but it will never change the heart.

What people need to see is to see the love and grace in us more than the teaching from us.

(B). The test of whether or not God's grace has been received is the experience, not the doctrine.

Graced people live gracious lives. The New Testament teaches true Christianity is experienced.

III. Truer words have never been spoken about those who don't stumble over Jesus.

"*Blessed is he who does not take offense with Me*" (v. 23). "Offense" is scandalon (σκανδαλον).

The etymology of this Greek word (from which we get our word 'scandal') is very, very interesting. A classical Greek dictionary lists an original form: of σκανδαληθρ as "The stick in a trap on which the bait is placed, and when touched by the animal, springs up and shuts the trap, and leads to death.

"We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block (σκανδαλον) to the Jews...." (1 Corinthians 1:23)

(A). Many people avoid Christ because they see a bondage that strangles them.

"I want to live my life the way I desire, and frankly, Jesus is a kill joy!" It is often thought or said.

(B). Many people avoid Christ because they see Him as the bait that doesn't satisfy them.

Think about fishing. If a fish were smart, he would see the bait and avoid it because he would say, "That will never, ever truly satisfy me!" So too, people see Jesus as a false bait.

(C). Many people avoid Christ because they see others who 'profess' Christianity that are trapped.

The only thing that can be said is "Taste and see (yourself) that the Lord is good." Do it today.

A translation of Jesus words "Blessed is he who does not take offense with Me" might be this:

"Truly filled with joy is he who doesn't see Jesus as the One that brings bondage in this life."