

Luke 7:18-35

Background to Consider...

After the final prophecies of Malachi, God remained silent for four centuries. He did not speak to anybody—prophet or priest. The silence between the two Testaments is daunting. But God did not stay silent. One day, through His messenger, God spoke to a priest named Zechariah. He told this priest that there would be coming a son from his own line who would prepare the way of the Messiah.

This Messiah, we are later told, would be the King of kings and Lord of lords. He would be the one true Prophet, thus making all of the other prophets who came before Him mere parodies. It would be through this Messiah whom God would fully reveal Himself (John 1:1, 14) and through whom God would speak. In fact, now in the present time, we no longer go to prophets for revelation from God, but to the words of Jesus the Christ (Heb. 1:1-2). The Spirit-inspired Scripture is God's Word and revelation to us (2 Tim. 3:14-17).

But when the Messiah comes, what would He do? Would He bring judgment or healing, condemnation or grace?

Read Luke 7:18-35 and Think About...

1. *Why John the Baptist questioned Jesus.*
 - a. We know Jesus recognized John the Baptist was “offended” because of Him (Luke 7:23), *but why was He offended?* (It might be helpful to think about John the Baptist's words to the people in John 3:7-17.)
2. *Jesus' response to John the Baptist.*
 - a. Why did Jesus respond the way He did in Luke 7:21-22? Why not just answer directly?
3. *The Old Testament stories and allusions to the coming Messiah .*
 - a. There is little doubt that Jesus' words were in fact very deliberate and well-chosen. Jesus was not just “making up an answer.” Rather, he was quoting, however loosely, the prophecies of Isaiah.
 - b. All good Jews—not least John the Baptist—would have most certainly recognized Jesus' response.¹ After all, Jesus' words were familiar words, taken from Isaiah 29:18-19; Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 61:1-3 (*quoted on the back of this page*).
4. *How Jesus was gracious to John, even in his doubt.*
 - a. Despite John's moments of doubt, Jesus the Messiah had grace for him too (Luke 7:24-35).

Your Thoughts/Questions?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

¹ Ralph F. Wilson, “Are you the One Who is to Come? (Luke 7:18-28a)” in *Disciple Lessons from Luke's Gospel*. Taken from http://www.jesuswalk.com/lessons/7_18-28a.htm (Accessed on July 25, 2012 at 2:38pm.)

Old Testament Scripture Alluded to By Jesus In Luke 7:22-23

"In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll,
and out of gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind will see.
Once more the humble will rejoice in the Lord;
the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 29:18-19)

"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert." (Isaiah 35:5-6)

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion--
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor." (Isaiah 61:1-3)