

Doubters

Sunday Morning, April 26, 2015

Thesis:

"We only begin to conquer our doubts when we acknowledge them." John Hamby, Pastor

Introduction:

Natural Doubters – Personality, Uncertainties
Rebellious Doubters - Did God really mean that?
Disappointed Doubters - Unfulfilled Desires
Wounded Doubters - Rough or Unjust Life
Intellectual Doubters - Unanswered Questions

What do you doubt? _____
(God's Forgiveness, Is the Bible true?
Why Suffering? Does God care?)

I. The Proclamation of John the Baptist (John 1: 29 – 34)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

30 This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'

31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.

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33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

No doubt about it. The Spirit of God remained on the Lamb who would take away the sin of the world.

II. John the Baptist Squarely Faced His Doubts (Luke 7: 18 – 23)

18 Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things.

19 And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

20 When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'"

21 And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.

23 & blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

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Other Biblical Heroes Doubted:

Moses - Num. 11: 10 - 15

Elijah - I Kings 19: 1 - 4

Jeremiah - 20: 7-9, 14 - 18

Paul - II Cor. 1: 8 - 9

- † John the Baptist never doubted until after he was imprisoned
- † Jesus reminds John the Baptist that He is fulfilling scripture. (Isaiah 35: 5 - 6, 61: 1)
- † Know Me By My Actions!
- † Messiah - Suffering Servant & Conquering King

III. Jesus Affirms John the Baptist's Faith **(Luke 7: 24 – 28)**

24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

25 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to 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 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Luke 12:8 - “I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God.

IV. Pre-Conceived Ideas Unrealized Produces Doubt. **Trust in God Produces Faith. (Luke 7: 29 – 35)**

29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

31 And the Lord said, “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like?

32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; We mourned to you, and you did not weep.’

33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’

34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ 35 But wisdom is justified by all her children.” Luke 7:29-35

What things are you expecting God to do that are unrealized? _____

What pre-conceived ideas do you have about God that could be creating doubt in you? _____

Conclusion:

When We Have Doubts in Faith....
We Need to Face Them Head On...
Learn Truth...
and Be Fortified in Christ!