**Building Core Strength**

**by Being Honest About Your Doubts[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Luke 7:18-35**

3 principles to help us bring our questions to the Lord

**I. Don’t Ever Hesitate to Bring Your Doubts, Questions, or Concerns to the Lord**

**Luke 7:19** - *Summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?”*

A. There are many possible reasons for doubts

1. When your circumstances are painful

2. When the culture believes otherwise

3. When you’re overly influenced by tradition

**Luke 7:20** - *When the men came to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, ‘Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?’ ”*

**Matthew 16:14** - *And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”*

4. When you have an incomplete knowledge of Scripture

B. God responds to legitimate doubt with truth and evidence

**Luke 7:22-23** - *And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them. Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”*

**Luke 1:3-4** - *it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.*

C. God’s answers may not be what you expected or wanted

**Habakkuk 1:2-4** - *How long, O Lord, will I call for help, and You will not hear? I cry out to You, “Violence!” Yet You do not save. Why do You make me see iniquity, and cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; strife exists and contention arises. Therefore the law is ignored and justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice comes out perverted.*

“God is the friend of the honest doubter who dares to talk to God rather than about him.  Prayer that includes an element of questioning God may be a means of increasing one’s faith.   Expressing doubts and crying out about unfair situations in the universe show one’s trust in God and one’s confidence that God should and does have an answer to humanity’s insoluble problems.”  (Barker and Bailey – The New American Commentary, Vol. 20)

**II. God Will Stand for/with the Person Who Relates Authentically to Him**

A. John was a man of conviction

**Luke 7:24** - *…What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?*

B. John was a man of courage

**Luke 7:25** - *“But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces!*

malakos – soft, effeminate (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9)

C. John was a man of purpose

**Luke 7:26-28** - *But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, Who will prepare Your way before You. I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John…*

D. Implications for us

1. Follow John’s example if necessary, and encourage those around you to do the same

2. Rely on the ministry of the Holy Spirit

**John 15:26** - *When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me…*

3. Be sure that you are acting on the clear biblical truth that you already know

**John 7:17** - *If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.*

4. Seek to go deep in the Scriptures to be prepared to help others with their questions

**2 Timothy 2:15** - *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

**1 Peter 3:15** - *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*

5. Remember the powerful impact of your testimony

**Psalm 107:2** - *Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary*

**Revelation 12:11** - *And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.*

6. Understand why our church places such an emphasis on Bible study, training, and equipping

**III. Expressing Honest Doubt is Different than Purposely Rejecting Truth**

A. The picture of childish complainers

B. The reality and power of unbelief

**Luke 7:28** - *I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*

1. Steve Viars [↑](#footnote-ref-1)