

When in Doubt

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 7:18-28a



Big Idea

When in doubt, Christians come to Jesus and speak honestly with Him about it. He will reconstruct them towards reality and actually strengthen the fiber of their faith in the process!

(1) Its Confusion (vv. 18-20)

In Luke 7:16-17, we see that people are amazed at Jesus. Everyone is talking about Him. But then, in v. 18, the camera pans to John the Baptist, the man who, to this point has been the boldest public promoter of Jesus, and we read this: “The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” (vv. 18-19). What a startling transition! John’s disciples: “He’s healing the sick! He’s raising the dead!” John himself: “Is He really the One?” What is that?!

(2) Its Cause

Now, while pride is always at the deepest level beneath our doubts, there are other things that feed into it as well. In John’s case, in particular, we see that doubt can result from a mistaken interpretation of Scripture that leads to a mistaken expectation of reality. When, after time, we find that reality does not align with our expectations, in our pride, we begin to doubt the God we thought we understood: “I had You figured out. I did my Bible study. What’s happening in my life isn’t matching up with what I see in Your Word. Therefore, [not: I might be wrong, please correct me; but:] You might not be the One!”

(3) Its Cure (vv. 21-23)

What do you do when you are doubting Jesus and struggling with what He’s up to in your life? Perhaps a bit ironically, you come to Him anyways. You let Him teach you. You let Him correct you. You let Him connect the dots for you from the Scriptures to your life. You let Him locate you in God’s story, in God’s world. You see, John does right here. Though he is doubting Jesus, He doesn’t run from Jesus. He, rather, runs to Him, and talks honestly with Him about it all.

Let me put a few key words on the process I think God takes us all through here: **Construction**, **Deconstruction**, **Reconstruction**—and in that order.

(4) Its Conclusion (vv. 24-28a)

Jesus is not thrown off by our doubts. He’s not surprised by them. He’s not embittered by them. He knows what He’s getting into with us. Everyone’s going to leave Him alone in the end. Not just John. Everyone. But this is why He’s come. This is why He goes to the cross. He’s going to remake us from the inside out, over the long haul—construction, deconstruction, reconstruction.

Reflection Questions



- How have you struggled with doubt as a Christian? Have you known any dark nights of the soul? Are you struggling with it now in some way?
- Have your mistaken interpretations of Scripture ever caused you to have mistaken expectations of reality? Did this lead you to doubt Jesus? How did you get through it?
- Is the church a safe place to express your doubts? Why or why not? How do you think we can steps towards making it more so?