

Questions, Quotes and Notes

December 18, 2022

Luke 7:24-28: Greater than the Greatest

Pre-Sermon: Here are some questions to think about to get you ready to listen to the sermon on Sunday.

1. Do you think you are spiritually privileged? Why or why not?

Mid-Sermon:

I want us to think about the way we evaluate what God is doing in our lives by looking at 1.) the way John evaluates what is going on with Jesus and 2.) the way Jesus evaluates what is going on with John. But, instead of having you simply focus on listening for an outline, I want to give you some important ideas to listen for. So, as you come to the service, bring a piece of paper and a pen, and see if you can answer these questions as I preach.

1. What is Luke 7:24-39 basically about?
2. What part of this passage are we looking at and what are we thinking about specifically together today?
3. How do you think about your life and the way God looks at you and what God's doing in you and through you? Do you think you have reasons to be content? Discontent? Blah? Excited?
4. What standard is the way you think and feel about your life based on?
5. What was John the Baptist tempted to make his evaluation of what God was doing through Jesus based on?
6. What does this statement mean: You have to let Jesus interpret what God is doing in the world for you.
7. What is God focused on doing right now through Jesus? What are some examples of things we should not expect Him to do right now through Jesus?
8. What are some questions people might have been tempted to ask about John looking at his situation there in prison?
9. What do some people think life should be like if you have enough faith?
10. What shocking thing does Jesus say about John and what does that tell us about Jesus and the way He evaluates people and situations?
11. Use your imagination for a minute. If you were sitting in prison next to John, how could we use what Jesus says about here to encourage John? Now, what is the significance of what Jesus says here for us? What does he say about the least in the kingdom of God and how should that be an encouragement to us?
12. What do we mean when we say, you have to locate yourself in the big story God is telling?

Notes:

Post Sermon:

- Important Cross References and Quotes to think about:

1. Luke 10:23-24
2. 1 Peter 1:10-12
3. "Here was John without all these mysteries being revealed. Didn't see the cross, didn't see the resurrection, didn't see the ascension, didn't see the sending of the Holy Spirit, the establishment of the church, didn't see the power of the movement of the gospel, didn't even have the full gospel. Didn't understand Israel's unbelief, Gentile salvation, Jew and Gentile one in Christ, didn't understand that the Messiah spiritually was going to dwell in the life of every believer...And here we are, we understand fully the depravity of man. We understand the full meaning of Jesus' life and death...We can preach the cross. We also preach the resurrection. We know that no one can be saved if they don't confess Jesus as Lord and believe in their heart that God has raised Him from the dead. We have a clear understanding of death. We have a clear understanding of divine judgment. We have a clear understanding of heaven and hell. All of that which is only vague in the Old Testament. We understand the full gospel: justification, saved from the penalty of sin; sanctification, saved from the power of sin; glorification, saved from the presence of sin. We understand the sweep of the gospel. We know the Word of God that the Apostle Paul says can make us wise unto salvation, the power of God which is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness that the man of God may be adequate or perfect, thoroughly equipped for every good work. We have the mind of Christ, the mind of God in its fullness. The reason that we are in the Kingdom of God in its fulfillment age greater than John is not because of our personal character exceeding his, or our personal influence exceeding his, but because of our privileged revelation. John knew Jesus was the Messiah. We know a lot more than that...a lot more." John MacArthur

- Application: We don't want to be hearers of the word only, but doers.
Being a doer usually takes thinking, however. Spend some time thinking about how you can apply what you learned today.

1. How can the way you think about your life and what God is doing in your life change as a result of this sermon?
2. What would be different about you if you believed that you were even more spiritually privileged than John the Baptist?

- How Well Was I Listening Questions: Here are some questions for your children.

1. What chapter of the Bible did we look at today?
2. What shocking thing does Jesus say about John and about us? Why is that such a surprising thing to say?
3. Is there anything in your life that you pity yourself about or feel discontent about? How could this message impact the way you look at your life?