



SERIES: Walking with Jesus
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Saturday, November 25, 2023
Scripture: Luke 7:18-23, 28
TITLE: Leveraging Your Doubt

“Never waste a trial.” I once heard that from a Bible teacher. I thought to myself, “What does that mean?” I mean, wouldn’t it be a better quote to say something like, “Trials can be avoided” or, “Trials frustrate me.” But as we’ll discover today, this teacher was right. In fact, it’s what John the Baptist did. He found himself in prison for his ministry. And like most of us, his trial led him to doubt Jesus.

But he leveraged doubt to strengthen his faith. How? This is what Luke writes in Luke 7:18-23, 28 (CSB).

So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord, asking, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

When the men reached him, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to ask you, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’”

At that time Jesus healed many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and he granted sight to many blind people. He replied to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, and blessed is the one who isn’t offended by me...”

I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John, but the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Can you blame John? I can’t. He prepared the way for the Messiah. He knew Jesus intimately. He was family. And when Jesus came to the river to partake in John’s ministry, John declared, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Just a few minutes later, he would declare, “This is the son of God.”

But like most of us, when trials show up, it causes some doubt. He asks, “Are you the Messiah, or should I keep looking?” We do the same thing. We love Jesus, but when the stuff hits the fan, we say, “Are you really God? Are you really in control? Can I really trust you?”

Jesus’ message to John is His message to us today. “I cure the sick. I heal the crippled. I restore the possessed. The dead are raised.” In other words, you know it. You’ve seen it. Believe it. And then, in verse 23, Jesus says that this man who doubted is the greatest.

So here is my challenge for you today: ask God to solidify your faith. God is not offended by your doubt. He's not offended by your questions. He has laid out page after page after page of His deity, authority, power, and plan. Jesus has displayed without question His identity and power.

So ask hard questions. Seek real answers. God will provide them if asked sincerely and look openly. So allow God to strengthen your faith one question at a time.