

# Luke 7:18-35

## According to plan?



### The text – Luke 7: 18-35

1. Read Luke 7:18-35. Who is John the baptiser? Luke has already written about John's ministry in Luke 3:2-20. Discuss what you know about him.
2. Why does John ask if Jesus is the One? (7:19, 20) Does he have doubts? Why?
3. In 7:22 Jesus recounts the events of his ministry. What does Jesus mean by the words "blessed is anyone who does not stumble (take offense) on account of me"? Why did people stumble on account of Jesus?
4. John is the last (and the greatest) of God's prophets in the era prior to the coming of the Messiah. What was the task of these prophets? Why were they often associated with the wilderness?
5. Discuss the riddle that Jesus recites in 7:32. This riddle is a response to the opposition of Pharisees and experts in the law (7:30). What is the main point that Jesus is making?

### The Scriptures – Luke 7: 18-35 as a portion of the Scriptures

6. John the baptiser cannot be understood apart from OT Scriptures such as the one quoted in Luke 7:27 from Malachi 3:1. Read these words in Malachi. Also read Isaiah 40:3. Discuss John in the light of these OT texts.
7. Read and discuss the words of Jesus in Luke 11:47-51. What is the main point that Jesus is making about the prophets of the OT era?
8. Wisdom is a really important theme throughout the Scriptures. What is wisdom? Read and discuss, for example, Job 28:20-28. What does Jesus mean when he affirms that "wisdom is proved right by all her children" (Luke 7:35)?

### Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Luke 7: 18-35 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. What causes you to question God? To wonder if Jesus is the One? Think about events in your own life as well as around the world.
10. Through Jesus, God is ushering in the kingdom of God (Luke 7:28). Where do you see the kingdom breaking through? How does it break through? Are you content/excited/joyful/disappointed about the breaking in of God's kingdom?
11. What issues or challenges in your own life and discipleship does this portion of Scripture raise? How can we pray for and support you in these issues and challenges?