

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, April 22/23, 2017 Ray Davis

“Doubt” Luke 7:18-35

A faith that has not been challenged by doubts is a naïve faith that will be defenseless against suffering & smart skeptics. A person's faith can collapse almost overnight if they carelessly go through life too busy or indifferent to ask the hard questions about “why” they believe “what” they believe. Neglect the “why” and you'll drift from the “what”.

What is Doubt?

- You can have a strong faith and still have doubts. Luke 3:16/John1:29-34; Vv18-19 & 24-28
- The opposite of faith is not doubt, but unbelief. Doubt is somewhere in between. v29 (Belief) & v30 (Unbelief); Ps42:5; 77:7-9; Ps103
- Doubt will ask honest questions but unbelief refuses to hear the answers. Vv31-34; John 3:19
- Faith is coming to God with all your questions, doubts and fears. V35; Book of Psalms; Ps55:22; Pro3:5-6; Heb11:6; Jer29:13

Why Do We Doubt?

- Unresolved past hurts. Eph4:26-27; Heb12:15
- Unrealistic expectations. Vv18-19 (Luke3:20); Luke 23:39
- Unwillingness to give up control. Vv31-35; Luke 6:46-49

How Do We Overcome Doubt?

- If Jesus is the “One” then whatever you give up to follow Him is nothing compared to what you will gain in Him. Vv22-23; John 4:13-14; Phil1:21; 3:8
- If you reject Jesus, you will try to make something or someone else Jesus. V19; John 3 Nicodemus (Religion) John 4 Woman of Samaria (Irreligion); Luke 15:11-32; John 6:35

Growing Notes

- 1) Why do you think a faith unchallenged by doubts is naïve and defenseless against suffering & smart skeptics? Why do you think that if you neglect the “why” you believe, you will drift from the “what” you believe?
- 2) Read Luke 7:18-35. What stands out to you? Review the points under “What is Doubt”. How does this story show us that we can have a strong faith and still have doubts? What is the difference between doubt and unbelief?
- 3) Review the points under “Why Do We Doubt”. How can unresolved past hurts cause us to doubt? How does coming to God to serve our purposes rather than to serve His purposes cause us to doubt (unrealistic expectations)? When we doubt God's goodness we are like easily irritated children in a bad mood and in a power struggle (vv31-35)?
- 4) Review the two points under “How to Overcome Doubt”. Why do you think the real issue on which everything hangs is not whether you agree with His teaching or not, but is He truly God? If He is, then whatever you give up to follow Him is nothing compared to what you will gain (John 4:13-14; Phil1:21; 3:8). Explain. If you reject Jesus, what does it mean that you will try to make something or someone else Jesus? Pray.