

UNDER AUTHORITY: Don't Stop Believing

LUKE 7:18-35

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #UnderAuthority

Doubts Do Not Disqualify...

Learning to Doubt Doubts Leads to Greater Faith

1. Pursue a Fact-Finding Faith (18-23).

2. Privilege a Fearless Faith (24-30).

3. Prioritize a Full-Grown Faith (31-35).

Luke 7:18-35

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling 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?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." ²⁹(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, "'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.' ³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵Yet wisdom is justified by all her children." (ESV)

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What are some doubts you routinely face? In today's message, Pastor Matt presented several reasons believers are prone to doubt. Which one struck you as a reason you have doubted?
2. Far from doubting or undependable, John generally had qualities of fearlessness. What positive elements of John's life does Jesus praise as worthy of imitation?
3. Some of the doubts that people experience are due to immaturity, like the Jews of Jesus's day, critical and childish. What are the ways we can be childlike in dealing with our doubt?
4. **Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and John 20:19-31.** What were the results of Thomas missing out on the community of faith in his day? Beyond these passages, how do we know that Jesus takes our community and connection to the body of Christ seriously?

Quote for the Week. . . by Sinclair Ferguson



"If we have deep-seated fears that God does not really love us (as many Christians have), we can only go so far in growing nearer to God. There will come a point at which we will fear to trust Him any further because we cannot be sure of His love. When we look at ourselves, or our own faith, or our circumstances we will never be free from those lurking fears. Satan will see to that. But when we lift up our eyes and look on the cross we find the final persuasion that God is gracious towards us. How can he be against us when all His wrath against us fell upon Christ? How can He fail to care for us when He gave the only Son He had for our sake? How can we doubt Him when He has given us evidence of His love sufficient to banish all doubts?"

Sinclair Ferguson, *Grow in Grace*, by permission of Banner of Truth, Carlisle, PA. 1989, p. 59.