

# Dealing With Doubts

(Luke 7:17-21)

- Introduction:
1. From time to time, we find ourselves plagued with doubts.
  2. We may wonder if there is a God; if Christianity is the true religion as opposed to some other religion; and if it is, are we practicing it correctly.
  3. These sorts of doubts have led some people to renounce their faith, and for others, they have resulted in an even greater faith in God.
  4. In this lesson, I want share a few thoughts on what we should do when we have doubts, using John the Baptist as the setting.

## I. The Background Of John The Baptist

- A. His birth (Luke 1).
  1. He was an answered prayer (Luke 1:13).
  2. God had plans for him (Luke 1:15-17).
  3. He was related to Jesus (Luke 1:36).
- B. His baptizing (John 1:15, 29, 33-34).
  1. He was given proof that Jesus was the Messiah (John 1:33).
- C. His imprisonment (Luke 3:19-20).
  1. This imprisonment would lead to his beheading (Matthew 14:6-11).
- D. His doubts (Luke 7:17-21).
  1. While in prison, John began to have doubts.
  2. He wanted reassurance.

## II. Lessons For When We Have Doubts

- A. Understand the difference between doubt and disbelief.
  1. Doubt is a matter of understanding; disbelief is a matter of the will.
  2. Doubt is a common thread woven through the lives of many great Bible characters (Gideon, Habakkuk, Abraham, etc.).
- B. Do something about your doubts.
  1. Don't just wallow in them.
  2. Take action to resolve your doubts.
  3. John turned to Jesus for assurance, and that's exactly what we need to do today when we have doubts.
  4. (Romans 10:17).
- C. Accept the evidence you've been given.
  1. Jesus expected his testimony to be sufficient proof to quell John's concerns (Luke 7:22; Isaiah 35:4-6).
  2. (John 20:30-31; 2 Peter 1:19).

- Conclusion:
1. Don't let an ounce of doubt destroy a pound of faith.
  2. When you have doubts, remember you're not alone.
  3. And turn to God's word for assurance.