

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
Lesson #10
"DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTMENT BY TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING"
(Luke 7:18-35; Matthew 11:17-30)

How do you respond when the Lord does not fulfill your expectations and your time demands? Are you able to keep the faith when He allows difficulties in your life and you know you have been faithful? Do you realize how many people begin to look for another way out whenever the Lord disappoints them?

I. GODLY PEOPLE HAVE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD THE BIG PICTURE OF THE PLAN OF GOD. DO NOT LET YOUR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES CLOUD YOUR VIEW OF HOW THE LORD CARES FOR YOU. (Luke 7:18-20)

A. John had received Divine confirmation of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was not confused about who the "Coming One" really was! (*Zechariah 9:9; Malachi 3-4*)

1. Always be on guard when looking for "another" to replace what you have in Jesus Christ. Satan has many counterfeits ready to deceive! (*John 14:16*)
(*Galatians 1:6-9*)

B. It is natural to have moments of discouragement when you know the Lord is capable of doing something you desperately need, yet you do not see Him at work quickly enough.

II. TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS DO NOT ALTER THE PLAN AND PROGRAM OF GOD. SEEK TO OBSERVE MORE CAREFULLY BEFORE GIVING OPINIONS YOU WILL SOON REGRET. (Luke 7:21-28)

A. Everything Jesus did was in perfect alignment with and fulfillment of Scripture. Everything God continues to do will also align with and fulfill Scripture. (*Luke 5:17*)

B. Jesus continued to demonstrate His power and authority by doing what Scripture said the Messiah would do. (*Isaiah 35:1-10; Isaiah 61:1-3*)

1. The Lord has power over all diseases and deformities that affect us in this fallen world.

2. The Lord has power over our ultimate enemy, which is death itself.

3. The Lord continued to proclaim what everyone needed to hear, which is the Gospel of his death, burial, and resurrection, and the Eternal Kingdom which is to come.

C. John had the great earthly honor of being the forerunner and prophet that personally introduced the Messiah to Israel and the world. You may not have the glorious job assignments you want in this life, but being born again into the family and Kingdom of God surpasses any earthly honors. (John was born among women, but our Savior was born supernaturally of a woman!)

D. Take note of how Jesus publicly reaffirmed His servant John. Jesus knows we all have our moments of doubt and discouragement. He always intercedes for those He has saved and placed into His eternal family. (*Hebrews 10:25*) He is faithful even when we are lacking in faith! (*2nd Timothy 2:11-13*)

III. THE WISDOM OF THE LORD IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE RESULTS OF HIS METHODS. DO NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS WHEN YOU ONLY HAVE PARTIAL INFORMATION! (Luke 7:29-35)

A. Do not make the mistake of trying to please the world in the ways you serve Christ and share the Gospel. Many are simply not open to the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit, no matter how you approach them. Our job is to faithfully obey whatever we are commanded by God to do, and leave the results to Him! (*Luke 7:31-34*)

B. Wisdom is justified by the fruit it produces. The Lord's unusual ways have resulted in the eternal salvation of countless souls. What are you producing? (*Luke 7:35*)

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR TEMPORARY SETBACKS TO TURN YOUR HEART AWAY FROM COMPLETELY TRUSTING IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE IS PREPARING THOSE HE LOVES FOR AN ETERNAL LIFE OF UNSPEAKABLE JOY!

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BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Has there ever been a time in your life when a major disappointment caused you to question God's love and care for you, or made you doubt if you were in relationship with Him? What Scriptures and believers did he use to help you get back on course with Him?

2. Have you learned how to skillfully share the Gospel in different ways in order to win people to Christ? How can we interact appropriately with sinners without becoming involved in sinful activities?

3. Are you confident that your actions and interactions with others will one day confirm that you were showing godly wisdom in your daily decisions? Give one example of what you are doing that should prove that you are walking in godly wisdom.