

“Blessed Is He Who Does Not Take Offense at Me”

The statement found in the title is not one of the more recognizable ones given by Jesus in the gospel. Jesus actually says it in Luke 7:23. What does the Lord mean?

As we continue in our weekly pursuit of the blessed life, we want to notice carefully the words of Jesus here. Here Jesus offers another blessing for our lives (Luke 7:18-23).

I. The Context:

- A. The context involves a situation with **John the Baptist**.
- B. Who was John?
 1. A **forerunner** for the Lord (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 4:5)
 2. One who **testified** of the Lord (John 1:29-34; Matthew 3:13-17)
 3. A powerful preacher with a **powerful message** (Luke 3:7-14)
 - a. He preached a message of **repentance**.
 - b. He preached a message of **judgment**.
 - c. John had been locked up because of bold preaching (Mark 6:14-29).
- C. What is transpiring?
 1. Vs. 18 – John’s disciples “**reported to him about all these things**.” This is referring back to the miracle Jesus performed in Luke 7:11-17.
 2. Vs. 19 – John sends some disciples to Jesus with a **question**.
 3. Why did John send the disciples with this question?
 - a. Maybe he had legitimate doubts?
 - b. Maybe he asked it for the benefit of his disciples?
 - c. Maybe he had become impatient and had a distorted view of the work Jesus came to do?

II. How does Jesus respond to John’s question?

- A. Vs. 22. – Go back and report the **evidence**.
 1. John needed to know that Jesus was fulfilling the words of Isaiah (Isaiah 35:5; 61:1). Jesus was giving sight to the blind and raising the dead!
 2. This needed to motivate John to continue trusting in Jesus.
- B. Vs. 23 - “Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”
 1. The word “offended” carries the idea of being led to stumble or sin.
 2. Here Jesus is announcing **blessings** on those who are willing to stick with Him **no matter what!**

III. What can we learn?

- A. Disciples having doubt is not **unusual**.
 1. Remember **Elijah** (1 Kings 18-19)?
 2. Remember **Moses** (Numbers 11)?
 3. Remember Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18)?
 4. Remember **apostle Thomas** (John 20:24-29)?
- B. Disciples must handle doubt in the **right way** (Luke 7:23).
- C. Disciples need to remember they will be **blessed** if they do not take offense at Jesus (Luke 7:23).

Conclusion: Are you willing to stick with Jesus **no matter what**?