

A Question of Standards

Luke 7:18-28

Background on John the Baptizer

- His Calling
- His Ministry
 - Brash, not “seeker-friendly”
 - Lasted only three years
 - Cut short
- His impatience – a question put to Jesus

“No greater man born of woman”



Expectation

“No greater man born of woman”



Reality

What Jesus said, and didn't say.

Jesus' Report:

- 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.

Isaiah's Prophecy

- He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
- To help the brokenhearted and proclaim the release of captives
- and recovering of sight to the blind,
- to set free the prisoners.

Lessons from Jesus' Reply

1. God tolerates the impertinent question. But we ask it in faith, and should be ready to hear His reply!

See...

- Job
- Habakkuk
- David

Lessons from Jesus' Reply

2. We are BLESSED when we get on board with God's plans done in God's ways in God's time!

- ❖ μακάριος - *privileged recipient of divine favor*
- ❖ God's way of doing things is not our own.
 - Isaiah 55:8
 - Romans 11:33
 - Ps 115:3

“I sin when I do not trust that God has my best interests at heart. I sin when I am alone and afraid and God’s promises seem so long ago, and difficult to remember. I sin when I am pretty sure that God would say no to the thing I want right now, but that I am convinced I cannot live without.” – Michael Mangis

Lessons from Jesus' Reply

3. John's greatness – and our greatness – is found not in achievement but in being single-minded about the glory of God.

1 Cor 10:31 – “So whether
you eat or drink, or
whatever you do, do
everything for the glory of
God.”

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