

A Deputation from John

Luke 7:18-35

by Don Falkos

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John the Baptist sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one we've been waiting for? Or should we be looking for someone else?"

Jesus said, "Tell John what you've seen and heard: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the poor are hearing the good news."

Jesus spoke to the crowd about John. "What did you go out into the desert to see? Tall grasses blown by the wind? No. Then what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothing? No. People who wear expensive clothes and are accustomed to luxury live in palaces. So what did you go out into the desert to see? A prophet? Yes, a prophet, and more than a prophet. Do you know what God said about John in the scriptures?"

I will send my messenger ahead of you.
He will prepare the way for you.

"All sorts of people, even tax collectors, listened to what John had to say, acknowledged God, and were baptized. But the Pharisees and the experts in the Law rejected what John said about God's purpose for their lives, and they refused to be baptized.

"The people of today are a discontented lot. You grumble no matter what. John the Baptist fasts, and you say, 'He's possessed by an evil spirit.' The Son of Man eats and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard and a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' Don't jump to conclusions. The value of a tree is determined by the quality of its fruit."