

## Reflection Questions: Luke 7:18-35

For the message, "What Are You Looking For?" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 5, 2019

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### INTRODUCTION

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Luke 7:18-35

**18** The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, **19** calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" **20** And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" **21** In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. **22** And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: 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. **23** And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

**24** When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **25** What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. **26** What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **27** This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

**28** I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

**29** (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, **30** but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

**31** "To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? **32** They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'

**33** For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' **34** The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' **35** Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

**Starter Question:** Do you recall a time when you experience a crisis of faith, or when your faith was severely challenged by something you experienced?

## QUESTIONS

### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- What do you make of John the Baptist who once with great faith led a spiritual renewal movement in Israel and even declared that Jesus was “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), now finding himself questioning everything he once believed as he wastes away in prison (Luke 3:18-20)? Were you surprised to see this, or that Luke highlighted this in his gospel about Jesus? What questions does John's crisis of faith provoke in your mind?
- Jesus made sure his audience knew that he thought very highly of John the Baptist, even when John's circumstances made him waver in his faith. Jesus said, “I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” What point was Jesus making? How did he want his audience to understand about the immense gift of the kingdom of God that was freely given even to the outcasts and misfits?
- Verses 33-34 tell us that John's ministry was marked by fasting and Jesus' ministry was marked by feasting, yet the religious leaders and those who followed them found every excuse to not respond to either John or Jesus. What does that tell you about the hardness of people's hearts?

### **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- John found himself full of doubt. What would it look like for us to encourage one another through disappointments, doubts, and trials of faith? How can we balance the real, lived experience of suffering in this life with the blood-of-Jesus-bought promise that “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you” (1 Peter 5:10)?

### **3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- Jesus was known for his feasting, and for the fact that he befriended all kinds of people. What would it look like for our community of faith to follow his footsteps? How would our posture towards those who do not yet believe need to change? What would we need to repent of?