

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #23

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 7:18-35

Sermon Date: Feb 26, 2006

Introduction:

In last week's study we stepped away from Luke in order to focus on the Great Commission. While we were "away", a story was told in Luke 7:11-17 of when Jesus stopped by the town of Nain and came upon a funeral procession. He felt for the widow who had lost her only son, so he intervened. "Young man, I say to you, get up!" And he did! As you might imagine, the word of a boy being raised from the dead spread quickly, and people all over heard about this prophet and praised God. Well, not quite everyone. Some couldn't see what was happening.

Now in this week's passage, Luke 7:18-35, Jesus gives us some insights into how and why some people aren't able to see things from a kingdom perspective. As you start this study, take time to pray and ask God to help you see what really was, and is, happening.

Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart on the next page to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"</p> <p>²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'"</p> <p>²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy ^a are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ²³ Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."</p> <p>²⁴ After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ²⁵ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written:</p> <p>a. The Greek word was used for various diseases affecting the skin—not necessarily leprosy.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ^b</p> <p>²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."</p> <p>²⁹ (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)</p> <p>³¹ "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:</p> <p>"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;</p> <p>we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.'</p> <p>³³ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners.'" ³⁵ But wisdom is proved right by all her children."</p> <p>b. Mal. 3:1</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

- b. A contemporary equivalent of the scene of the children in verse 7:32 might be something like

*It was the "Seventh Inning Stretch" at Fenway –
but you didn't stand up and sing with us;*

*The bagpipes played outside the church for the
fireman's funeral, but you didn't seem to care.*

We are to be joyful at Fenway (okay, maybe just sometimes) and we are to be mournful at funerals. What response is called for in light of learning that Jesus, the Messiah, has come? How do you feel about the way you have responded to this thus far in your life?

6. Have you come to a place in your spiritual journey where you discovered that Jesus was the one you were looking for?

- a. If so, how did you come to this understanding?
What difference has it made in your life?
- b. If not, then imagine you were in this scene and had a chance to ask Jesus a few questions of your own.
What would you ask him?

Take some time to pray, talking to God about your answers to the above questions, and asking him the questions that are on your heart.