

## Investigating Jesus

### Jesus Dispels Doubts and Forgives Sin

April 7, 2024 / Phil Bischoff

#### How does Jesus exceed my expectations?

<sup>18</sup> John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, <sup>19</sup> he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>20</sup> When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

<sup>21</sup> At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup> 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 are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>23</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." **Luke 7:18-23, NIV**

#### Jesus was not exactly what John expected.

#### But he was exactly what God promised.

<sup>24</sup> After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is the one about whom it is written:

*"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."*

<sup>28</sup> 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." **Luke 7:24-28, NIV**

#### Expectation of a Savior leads to preparation of my heart through confession and repentance.

<sup>29</sup> (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. <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

<sup>31</sup> Jesus went on to say, "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? <sup>32</sup> They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

*"We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge, and you did not cry."*

<sup>33</sup> For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' <sup>34</sup> 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.' <sup>35</sup> But wisdom is proved right by all her children." **Luke 7:29-35, NIV**

#### Don't expect God to try to please you.

#### The wisdom of God's plan will be seen over time.

<sup>36</sup> When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup> A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

<sup>38</sup> As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." **Luke 7:36-39, NIV**

**God offers grace when I least expect it, but when I need it the most.**

<sup>40</sup> Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

<sup>41</sup> "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty." <sup>42</sup> "Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

<sup>44</sup> Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair." <sup>45</sup> "You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet." <sup>46</sup> "You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet." <sup>47</sup> **Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.**

<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." **Luke 7:40-50, NIV**

**Expect Christ's love to grow in your heart in direct proportion to your appreciation of his undeserved love to you.**

## MEMORY VERSE

<sup>47</sup> *Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.* **Luke 7:47, NIV**

### My next step:

Jesus exceeds my expectation because his love for me exceeds anything I could imagine or expect. I will grow in appreciation for his love and show it in my life.

## Group Questions

Jesus says, "Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." There are times when Jesus is not exactly what we expect, and he doesn't answer our prayers like we think he should.

How do you deal with disappointment when God doesn't come to your aid like you hoped he would? How can improper expectations of God lead you to a dark and disappointing place?

Why is it a good thing that God doesn't try to please us?

When is a time in your life that God's grace was surprising and incredibly needed in your life?

How will a greater appreciation for what Jesus has done for me lead to greater evidence of love in my life?