



Answers for the Doubting Believer

“When you just have to know.”

As seen thru the lens of Luke 7:18-25

By Scott A Asselin

Answers for the Doubting Believer is a seven day devotional based on the message preached Sunday morning June 22nd, 2025 at Savannah Holy Church of God at 707 Little Neck Rd, Savannah Ga.

“The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.”
Psalms 111:2

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Introduction

I Just Have to Know

Sometimes, faith brings us to a place where we whisper, *I just have to know*. Not because we've stopped believing, but because life has grown heavy, unclear, or unexpectedly painful. Prayers feel unanswered, the silence stretches too long, and the heart begins to ask, *Is this really what I thought it was?*

John the Baptist knew that feeling. He had boldly declared Jesus as the Lamb of God. He had baptized Him, heard the voice from heaven, and prepared the way. Now, in a dark prison cell, John sends his disciples with a question that has echoed through the hearts of many believers ever since. Not because they've stopped believing, but because life hasn't looked the way they thought it would. Promises seem delayed; prayers feel unanswered. The path grows dim. And all they can manage to ask is:

“Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?” (Luke 7:19).

Through the lens of Luke 7:18–25, we'll walk with John the Baptist in his moment of uncertainty, we'll listen as Jesus answers, not with rebuke, but with kindness. Not with condemnation, but with confirmation.

If you're in a season where your heart whispers, *I just have to know*, then you're not alone. You're not forgotten. Come, bring your doubts, your questions, and your hope that refuses to die. Jesus still answers the honest heart. Let's listen for His voice together.

Answers for the Doubting Believer

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Day 1

When the Strongest Saints Struggle

Even the most faithful are not immune to doubt. Strength of spirit doesn't mean the absence of questions. Sometimes, it's the ones who have stood the tallest in faith who find themselves suddenly hemmed in by uncertainty. That's what we see in Luke 7, a powerful truth wrapped in the story of a prophet behind prison walls.

“And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things. And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?” — Luke 7:18–19

John the Baptist wasn't just any preacher. He was the one sent to prepare the way of the Lord. He called sinners to repentance with a voice like thunder. He baptized Christ Himself. He had seen and heard things most could only imagine. Yet here, in a narrow cell, his voice softens to a question: ***“Art thou he that should come?”***

Doubt is a prison of its own. It tightens the walls around our confidence and dims the clarity of what we once knew so surely. It doesn't always come because of rebellion; sometimes it's born out of exhaustion, isolation, or disappointment. John, locked away and likely wondering if the Kingdom he had preached would come in time to save him, suddenly finds himself second-guessing what he once declared so boldly.

There was a young woman, bright, committed, and faithful, who had always believed God had a purpose for her life. But after a painful season of loss and setbacks, her prayers

began to shrink. Once outspoken, she grew quiet. Once passionate, she now held back. “I still believe,” she told a friend, “But it’s harder to breathe in here.” She wasn’t talking about a room; she meant the heaviness that doubt had laid over her heart. That’s what doubt can do. It doesn’t just whisper lies; it builds walls.

Yet John’s example is beautiful. He doesn’t pretend. He doesn’t withdraw in silence. He sends his question straight to Jesus. And Jesus responds, not with scorn, but with reassurance. That tells us something comforting: honest doubt, brought to Jesus, can lead to deeper faith.

What doubts have quietly wrapped themselves around you? What questions have made your faith feel smaller? Don’t stay locked in that inner prison. Bring them to Jesus. He knows how to answer the sincere heart, and He never rebukes the one who still seeks Him.

Day 2

Doubt Does Not Disqualify You

The presence of doubt is not the absence of faith, it's often the cry of faith under strain. For some reason, we've come to think that spiritual questions are signs of spiritual failure. But when John the Baptist, the one who baptized Christ and announced Him as the Lamb of God, began to wrestle with uncertainty, Jesus didn't dismiss him. He responded with compassion.

“And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?” — Luke 7:19

John's question might surprise us. This is the same man who had seen the Spirit descend like a dove, who had heard the voice from heaven. But now he's in prison, and nothing looks like he expected. The Messiah hasn't overthrown the Roman oppressors. The world hasn't changed the way John thought it would. And John himself is suffering. So, he asks, not out of rebellion, but out of weariness: “Are you really the One?”

It would've been easy for Jesus to say, “How could you ask that?” But instead, He honored the question, and He honored the man who asked it. That's grace. That's how God handles the hearts of His servants when they tremble.

There's a story of a middle-aged man who served faithfully in his small church for decades. When his wife was diagnosed with a terminal illness, he prayed fervently, believed earnestly, and waited expectantly for a miracle. But none came. After the funeral, he sat down with his

pastor and said, “I still believe God is good, but I don’t know how to make sense of what just happened.” Some might think that was a crisis of faith. But it wasn’t. It was faith learning how to walk with a limp.

We sometimes imagine that strong Christians never wrestle with questions. But real faith isn’t a polished speech, it’s a relationship. And in every real relationship, questions are part of the conversation. John’s doubt didn’t erase his devotion. It didn’t strip him of his calling. And it didn’t change how Jesus saw him.

Have you felt like your questions have made you unworthy? Like you’ve failed God because you’ve struggled to understand His ways? Be encouraged, Jesus isn’t looking for perfect certainty. He’s looking for hearts that keep seeking Him. Will you bring your questions to Him today?

Day 3

Take Your Doubts to Jesus

When questions rise in the heart of a believer, they will either drive us away from Christ or draw us closer to Him. What made John's response so admirable was not that he had doubts, but that he knew where to take them. He didn't stew in silence or turn bitter behind bars. He called two of his disciples and sent them to Jesus.

“When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?” — Luke 7:20

John could have let the silence of his prison become the silence of his soul, but instead he sought an answer. And he sought it from the only One who could give it. He didn't send them to the temple for ritual. He didn't send them to scribes for doctrine. He sent them to Jesus. That, right there, is the kind of move faith makes when it's under pressure, it goes back to the source.

There was once a woman who, after years of churchgoing, found herself in a wilderness of the soul. Her prayers felt hollow, her Bible unreadable, her faith threadbare. But one day, in frustration, she set the Scriptures down and simply said aloud, “Lord, I don't know if I even know You like I thought I did; but if You are who You say You are, please show me again.” She didn't get a vision or a lightning bolt. But in the days that followed, an old hymn stirred her heart, a sermon answered a quiet question, and a friend unknowingly offered the very encouragement she needed.

Bit by bit, the light returned. Her faith wasn't rebuilt by logic; it was restored by turning again to Jesus.

That's the invitation of this passage. Jesus doesn't hide from honest seekers. When John's disciples arrived, Jesus didn't offer a philosophical argument. He simply pointed to what they could see and hear. His life was His answer.

Have you been carrying your doubts alone? Have you asked your questions to everyone except the One who can actually answer them? Maybe it's time to do what John did, to send your questions straight to Jesus. If you're willing to ask Him, are you also willing to listen for His reply?

Day 4

What You See and Hear Matters

Sometimes, in seasons of uncertainty, we look for complicated answers. We want deep explanations, ironclad logic, or a feeling that makes everything click into place. But when John's disciples came to Jesus with that haunting question:

“Art thou he that should come?”

the Lord didn't give a sermon. He pointed to what was happening right in front of them.

“And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard...”

Luke 7:21–22a

Jesus didn't ask them to take it on blind faith. He said, in essence, *“Look around. Listen closely. Then go tell John.”* The blind were seeing. The lame were walking. The lepers were cleansed. The gospel was being preached to the poor. These weren't distant reports, they were living testimonies happening in real time. That was the answer: the evidence of changed lives.

There was a retired schoolteacher who, after losing her husband, struggled with a deep sense of spiritual fog. Her prayers felt unanswered. Her comfort was gone. One afternoon, while delivering a meal to a single mother in her

neighborhood, a woman she had started visiting weekly, she watched the little boy open the door and shout, “Mom, the church lady’s here!” She laughed. But as she stepped inside, she noticed a Bible on the table. “We started reading it after you prayed with us last week,” the mother said quietly. That simple sentence hit her like a sunrise after a long night. She had come to serve, but in doing so, she saw God working. And at that moment, her own faith began to breathe again.

Jesus still says, “*Tell what you’ve seen and heard.*” Look for the evidence of grace. It may not be loud or dramatic, but it’s there, in the comfort you didn’t expect, in the forgiveness you received, in the joy returning where sorrow once ruled.

What have you seen and heard lately that proves God is still at work? Can you recall even a small moment where His presence broke through your doubt? Faith often grows not from explanations, but from remembering what God has already done. Will you look again today?

Day 5

God's Work May Not Match Your Expectations

God always keeps His promises, but He rarely fulfills them in the way we imagined. That's part of what made John's question so weighty. He wasn't asking as a skeptic, but as someone who had faithfully prepared the way for a King. Yet now, from the shadows of a prison cell, he sends word to Jesus: *"Are You the One?"*

"Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached." — Luke 7:22

Jesus doesn't deny John's struggle. He answers with what's unfolding around Him: healing, hope, and the gospel going forth. But John might have been expecting something else - judgment on the wicked, justice for the oppressed, and perhaps even release from prison. Instead, the signs of the Messiah were quieter, more merciful, less like thunder and more like balm.

Sometimes God's answers don't look like our prayers. We ask for rescue, and He sends endurance. We plead for change, and He begins by changing us. And if we're not careful, we might think He's not answering at all when, in fact, He's working in a deeper, more eternal way.

There was a missionary couple who spent years serving in a foreign land, faithfully sharing the gospel with barely any visible fruit. They often prayed, fasted, and wept, expecting revival. When they retired and returned home, they felt

discouraged. But years later, they received a letter from a young man in that village who had come to Christ through their influence and had led dozens to the Lord. “You didn’t fail,” he wrote. “You planted seeds that are now bearing fruit.” They had wanted fire from heaven, but God had sent roots into the ground. The work had always been there, just not in the way they expected.

So it is with us. God is never idle, even when His ways seem slow or unfamiliar. The proof of His work is often in the quiet places, the small beginnings, the surprising turns.

Have you been waiting for God to show up in a certain way, only to find He’s working differently than you hoped? Could it be that His plan is better, even if it’s not what you pictured? Trust that the One who heals, raises, and preaches is still at work, even when it doesn’t look like what you imagined.

Day 6

Blessed Are the Unoffended

There's a gentle firmness in Jesus' words that meets John's question with grace and challenge at the same time. After pointing to the miracles and the message, Jesus sends John's disciples back with one final line, a beatitude, tucked quietly into the end of the message.

“And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.” — Luke 7:23

It's an odd blessing at first glance. Why would anyone be offended by Jesus? And yet, there it is. A reminder that sometimes the hardest part of faith is when God doesn't act the way we expected. John, after all, had preached a fiery Messiah, One who would lay the axe to the root and burn the chaff with unquenchable fire. But now, that same Messiah was healing beggars, dining with sinners, and letting John sit in a prison cell.

We don't often say it out loud, but most of us know what it feels like to be disappointed with God. A prayer unanswered. A door that is closed. A delay that feels like a denial. That kind of disappointment has a way of hardening the heart, if we let it.

There was a young man, once deeply committed to ministry, who turned away from it all after his father's sudden death. “I trusted God with everything,” he said, “and He let this happen.” For years, he stayed distant, offended not by what Jesus said, but by what He didn't say; not by what Jesus did, but what He didn't do. But slowly, grace worked its way back in. Through the patient love of

a friend, the quiet pull of Scripture, and the unshakable memory of God's past faithfulness, the man realized that Jesus never promised life would make sense, but He did promise we'd never walk it alone. The offense melted into surrender.

Jesus blesses those who stay when it would be easier to leave. Those who trust when understanding runs dry. Those who let Him be Lord even when He's not acting like the rescuer they imagined. That's the kind of faith that brings blessing, not the faith that avoids offense, but the one that refuses to give into it.

Is there a place in your heart where you've felt let down by how God has handled things? Are you willing to trust Him even when you don't understand Him? The blessing still stands, for the one who stays unoffended.

Day 7

Jesus Commends Even the Questioning

There's something striking about what happens after John's disciples leave. They come with a heavy question

“Art thou he that should come?”

and Jesus answers it graciously. But once they're gone, Jesus turns to the crowd and does something unexpected: He praises John. Not before the question, not after a confession of faith, but right in the midst of John's doubt.

“And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? ... This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.” — Luke 7:24, 27

Jesus doesn't scold John for asking hard questions. He doesn't lower His estimation of him. In fact, He affirms John's identity and calling with more strength than ever. It's almost as if Jesus is saying, *Don't mistake John's moment of doubt for weakness, this man is still My messenger.*

That says a great deal about how God views us in our struggles. When we doubt, we often assume we've lost favor or slipped into disapproval. But Jesus sees the whole story. He knows the years of faithfulness behind the question. He remembers the courage that came before the confusion. And He honors the heart that keeps seeking truth, even when the way grows dark.

There was an aging pastor once, known for his wisdom and unshakeable sermons. Late in life, he suffered from dementia. On some days, he could no longer quote Scripture clearly or pray in full sentences. A visitor once asked, “Do you think he’s still as close to God as he used to be?” His wife smiled and said, “Closer. Because now, he rests in God’s faithfulness more than his own memory.” That’s the beauty of grace. Our value in God’s eyes isn’t based on our clarity, but on His constancy.

You may not have all the answers. You may, like John, ask hard questions from a hard place. But Jesus doesn’t cancel you for that. He sees the deeper faith still reaching out beneath the questions, and He honors it.

Have you been defining your worth by how strong your faith feels in this moment? Can you trust that God still calls you His own, even when you’re unsure? He knows the weight of your heart, and He still calls you faithful.

Epilogue

He Is Still the One

As we close this journey through *Answers for the Doubting Believer*, let one truth settle into your soul: Jesus was not ashamed of John's question, and He is not ashamed of yours. He didn't rebuke John for asking,

“Art thou he that should come?”

Instead, He responded with compassion and truth, and then turned to the crowd and said,

“Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist” (Luke 7:28).

Your questions don't erase your faith. They simply reveal that your heart is still reaching. God never asked us to walk in certainty, but in trust. Like John, you may not see the full picture. But Jesus still honors the heart that seeks Him, even in the shadows.

If your journey is marked by quiet doubts and whispered prayers, take heart. Jesus still answers the honest soul, not always with immediate clarity, but always with love. He hasn't forgotten you. He hasn't turned away. You are still called, still loved, and still His.

So keep walking. Keep asking. Keep seeking. He is still the One, and He still walks beside the doubting heart, calling it blessed.

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