



WALKING ON WATER  
BIBLE CHURCH

TRUTH  
STILL  
MATTERS

# COMMITTED! NOT COMFORTABLE!

LUKE 7:24-30

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PRESSURE  
A REED?



COMFORT  
A PALACE?



COMMITMENT  
A PROPHET!

SAME TRUTH | DEEPER FAITH | A STRONGER CHURCH

## Luke 7:24-30

- 24 When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John:  
“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?
- 25 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts.



## Luke 7:24-30

- 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to 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.’

## Luke 7:24-30

- 28 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”
- 29 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

## Luke 7:24-30

- 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

# Fallen Condition Focus

- God has not called us to arrange our lives around comfort.
- God calls us to remain committed to Him and His Word.
- Faithfulness is revealed when obedience becomes uncomfortable.

# THE CONTEXT

- John the Baptist is no longer preaching beside the Jordan where his popularity was spreading.
- The crowds are no longer coming. **John is in prison because he confronted Herod's sin.**
- John could have protected his comfort by remaining silent.
- Instead, **John chose commitment over compromise.**

# KEY THOUGHT

Faithfulness may cost you the comfort that compromise could have preserved.

The question is not: “What is easiest?”

The question is: “What does God require?”



# THREE PICTURES — THREE WAYS PEOPLE LIVE

REED — moved by pressure.

ROYAL — motivated by comfort.

PROPHET — committed to God's Word.

# I. THE REED

## COMMITMENT CONTROLLED BY PRESSURE

“A reed shaken by the wind?” — Luke 7:24

A reed was a tall, slender, grass-like plant that commonly grew in wet areas, including around the Jordan Valley. Because its stalk was relatively flexible, wind could cause it to bend and sway back and forth.

# I. JOHN'S COMMITMENT WAS **NOT** CONTROLLED BY PRESSURE

John did not change direction whenever the cultural wind changed.

He preached repentance to the crowd — and to the king.

Pressure did not determine his convictions.

Pressure did not **SWAY** his commitment

# JOHN STRUGGLED — **BUT HE DIDN'T SHIFT**

Discouraged — but not disloyal.

Struggling — but not surrendering.

He had questions — but had not abandoned his convictions or his responsibilities.

**A difficult moment did not erase a faithful life.**

# APPLICATION: DON'T BECOME A REED

Don't build convictions around public opinion.

Don't let social pressure rewrite Scripture.

Don't change theology simply because truth becomes unpopular.

Ask: "What has God said?" — not "Which way is the wind blowing?"

## II. THE ROYAL COMMITMENT MOTIVATED BY COMFORT

“Those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts.” — Luke 7:25

John was not building his ministry around ease, prestige, or access.

His faithfulness put him in the king’s prison — not the king’s palace.



# THE ISSUE IS NOT HAVING COMFORT

God's blessings are not sinful.

Discomfort itself is not spirituality.

The issue is whether comfort controls our obedience.

What happens when comfort and obedience collide?

# COMFORT VS. COMMITMENT

Comfort says: “Protect yourself.”

Commitment says: “Obey God.”

Comfort asks: “What will this cost me?”

Commitment asks: “What does God require of me?”

# APPLICATION: WHEN FAITHFULNESS COSTS

Telling the truth may cost approval.

Integrity may cost an opportunity.

Biblical conviction may cost relationships.

Obedience may make life harder — but compromise is not the answer.

### III. COMMITMENT IS FAITHFUL TO GOD'S ASSIGNMENT

“A prophet? Yes... and more than a prophet.” — Luke 7:26

John was God's promised messenger.

His assignment: prepare the way for Messiah.

**A messenger does not create the message — he delivers it.**

# BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT

You do not have to be somebody else.

You must be faithful with what God entrusted to you.

“It is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”  
— 1 Corinthians 4:2

## IV. GOD DEFINES GREATNESS

“Among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John...” — Luke 7:28

Herod saw a troublemaker.

The world could see a prisoner and a failed ministry.

Jesus saw a faithful servant.

# GREATER PRIVILEGE — GREATER RESPONSIBILITY

John announced the coming Messiah.

We live in light of Christ's death and resurrection.

We enjoy New Covenant and Kingdom privileges John announced.

**If John remained committed, how much more should we?**

## V. COMMITMENT RESPONDS TO GOD

The people and tax collectors “justified God.” — Luke 7:29

The Pharisees and lawyers “rejected the will of God.” — Luke 7:30

The same message produced repentance in some and resistance in others.



# APPLICATION: GOD IS RIGHT

Repentance says: “God is right about me.”

Self-righteousness says: “I need to defend myself.”

Commitment submits even when God’s Word makes us uncomfortable.

Real faith responds to correction with repentance — not excuses.

# REED, PALACE, OR PROPHET?

REED — controlled by pressure.

ROYAL — controlled by comfort.

PROPHET — controlled by commitment to God's Word.

Which one describes me?

# PERSONAL EXAMINATION

Can God trust me when obedience becomes uncomfortable?

Can God trust me when the crowd disagrees?

Can God trust me when telling the truth costs something?

Can God trust me when nobody applauds?

Can God Trust me when life gets hard?

# JOHN'S EXAMPLE

You can be discouraged and still be committed.

You can be hurting and still be committed.

You can be misunderstood and still be committed.

You can lose comforts and still remain faithful.

# FINAL CHALLENGE

Don't be a reed — shifting with every wind.

Don't live for the palace — choosing comfort above obedience.

Be faithful to your assignment.

Be committed when it is comfortable — and when it is not.

# **COMMITTED, NOT COMFORTABLE**

“Faithfulness may cost you the comfort  
that compromise could have preserved.”