

*When What God Is Doing
Doesn't Look Like
What You Expected*

OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT

LUKE 7:19-23



GOD'S PLAN
IS STILL WORKING



TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS
TO JESUS



HIS GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT



STAY CONNECTED.
DON'T GIVE UP.



Pastor
MIKE HOLLOWAY

WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

Luke 7:19-23

And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

²⁰ When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ ”

²¹ And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

Luke 7:19-23

²² Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them.

²³ And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of Me.”

FAITHFUL PEOPLE CAN GET DISCOURAGED

- David asked, “How long, O LORD?” — Psalm 13
- Elijah became emotionally exhausted — 1 Kings 19
- Paul was “troubled on every side” — 2 Corinthians 4:8
- John the Baptist asked, “Are You the One?” — Luke 7:19



**You can know who Jesus is and still struggle
with what Jesus is doing.**

THE TENSION OF LUKE 7

1

CIRCUMSTANCES COLLIDE WITH EXPECTATIONS

Discouragement often grows in the gap between what we expected God to do and what God actually allowed.

JOHN'S EXPECTATION vs. JOHN'S EXPERIENCE

EXPECTATION

- Messiah is here
- Judgment is coming
- God will set things right

EXPERIENCE

- John is in prison
- Herod remains in power
- Jesus has not released him



**Never judge the faithfulness of God by the
circumstances of one moment.**

LOOK BEYOND THE PRISON



2

QUESTIONS ARE NOT ALWAYS UNBELIEF

Faith does not mean you never have questions.
Sometimes faith means you know where to take them.

JOHN TOOK HIS QUESTIONS TO JESUS

- He did not abandon Jesus.
- He did not seek answers from Herod or the Pharisees.
- He sent his disciples directly to Christ.
- When you do not understand God — go to God.

3

JESUS POINTS JOHN BACK TO THE WORD

Jesus answers discouragement with evidence grounded in what God had already promised.

“GO...TELL JOHN WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN AND HEARD”

- The blind see.
- The lame walk.
- Lepers are cleansed.
- The deaf hear.
- The dead are raised.
- The poor hear the gospel.



**Don't let your feelings preach louder than
God's Word.**

TRUTH MUST INTERPRET THE MOMENT

4

REASSURANCE WITHOUT IMMEDIATE RESCUE

Sometimes we ask God to change the situation,
and God gives us grace to endure the situation.

PAUL ASKED FOR REMOVAL — GOD PROMISED SUFFICIENCY

- “My grace is sufficient for thee...”
- “My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
- God’s faithfulness is not measured only by what He removes.
- Sometimes His power is displayed by keeping us while we are in it.

5

TRIALS CAN STRENGTHEN FAITH

The testing of faith can produce endurance, maturity, and a deeper knowledge of God.

SOME THINGS YOU LEARN IN THE STORM

- You knew God was a Provider — then you needed provision.
- You knew God was a Comforter — then your heart was broken.
- You knew God gave peace — then everything became chaotic.
- You knew grace was sufficient — then grace was all you had.

6

DISCOURAGEMENT CAN DISTORT PERSPECTIVE

Pain can make temporary trouble feel permanent and loneliness feel absolute.

ELIJAH: “I, EVEN I ONLY, AM LEFT”

- Elijah was exhausted and afraid.
- He concluded that he was alone.
- God revealed that 7,000 had not bowed to Baal.
- Be careful making permanent conclusions in temporary pain.

7

DON'T ISOLATE WHEN YOU'RE DISCOURAGED

God often strengthens discouraged believers through the presence and encouragement of other believers.

REST IS NOT THE SAME AS ISOLATION

- Stay connected to the Word.
- Stay connected to prayer.
- Stay connected to worship.
- Stay connected to godly fellowship.
- “If they fall, the one will lift up his fellow.”



8

SILENCE DOES NOT MEAN ABSENCE

The promise is not the absence of trouble.
The promise is the presence of God in trouble.

“WHEN THOU PASSEST THROUGH...”

- Through the waters — “I will be with thee.”
- Through the rivers — they will not overflow thee.
- Through the fire — thou shalt not be burned.
- God is “a very present help in trouble.”

9

DON'T STUMBLE OVER WHAT GOD HASN'T EXPLAINED

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



**Don't let what you don't understand about
God make you forget what you already
know about God.**

LUKE 7:23

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I'M DISCOURAGED?

1. Take your questions to Jesus.
2. Return to what God has already said.
3. Remember what God has already done.
4. Stay connected to God's people.
5. Keep obeying while you are waiting.
6. Trust God's grace for today.

GOD IS STILL WORKING

John is in prison — but Jesus is still working.

John does not understand everything — but Jesus is still Messiah.

John's circumstances have changed — Jesus has not.

TROUBLED — BUT NOT DESTROYED

- Troubled — but not distressed.
- Perplexed — but not in despair.
- Weak — but His strength is made perfect in weakness.
- Waiting — but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength.

WHEN DISCOURAGEMENT SPEAKS...

“Give up!” — Faith says: “I’m still standing.”

“God forgot you!” — Faith says: “He will never leave me.”

“You’re too weak!” — Faith says: “His strength is perfect in weakness.”

“Where is God?” — Faith says: “Right here with me.”

THIS WEEK'S CONFESSION

I will not allow what I don't understand about God to make me forget what I know about God.

His Word is true. His grace is sufficient. His presence is with me. His purpose is still working. And I will not give up.