



## Uniontown Bible Church

Sermon Guide  
March 22: Luke 7:18-28

**What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?**

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Doubt isn't always a sign of weak faith - Even the greatest prophet struggled when reality didn't match expectations
2. Jesus doesn't shame honest questions - He responded to John with evidence and affirmation, not condemnation
3. Our expectations can become stumbling blocks - When we create our own standards for how God should work, we set ourselves up for disappointment
4. God promises His presence, not a problem-free life - "Even though I walk through the valley... You are with me" (Psalm 23)
5. We are greater than John - Not because we're stronger, but because we know the tomb is empty and can say "It is finished"

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think John the Baptist doubted? What was the gap between his expectations and his experience of Jesus?
2. How did Jesus respond to John's doubt? What does this tell us about how Jesus handles our honest questions and struggles?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Blessed is the one who isn't offended by me"? How does the word "scandalon" (trap/stumbling block) help us understand this?
4. What expectations did you have about Jesus or the Christian life before you became a believer? Which of those have proven true? Which haven't?
5. Review the expectations mentioned in the sermon: Financial prosperity and good health, protection from war and suffering, freedom from persecution, children who follow Jesus,

protection from early death or tragedy. Have you personally struggled with any of these? How has the gap between expectation and reality affected your faith?

6. Jesus will not ever be the Savior we always want Him to be... Jesus is in the business of giving you exactly what you need, not what you think you need. How does this statement challenge you? Encourage you?
7. Read Mark 9:24 - The father says, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Why is it significant that Jesus didn't shame this honest prayer? When have you needed to pray something similar? What keeps us from being this honest with God?
8. Sometimes our reactions to tragedy reveal we think we should be God and He should serve us. How can we tell the difference between honest lament (like the Psalms) and demanding God meet our expectations? What does healthy surrender to God's sovereignty look like in the midst of pain?
9. Jesus praised John publicly even after John's doubt, calling him the greatest person born of women. What does this teach us about how God views us in our struggles? How should this affect the way we treat others who are doubting?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. **Honest Inventory:** Write down your current expectations of Jesus. Which are biblical? Which might you have created yourself? Bring the list to God in prayer, asking Him to align your heart with reality.
2. **The "I Believe, Help My Unbelief" Prayer:** Spend time each day this week praying with radical honesty about where you're struggling to trust. Don't perform faith you don't feel—bring your real doubts to Jesus.
3. **Study God's Promises:** Pick one area where your expectations haven't matched reality. Search Scripture for what God actually promises in that area (not what you assumed). Journal what you discover.
4. **Encourage a Doubter:** Reach out to someone you know who is struggling with doubt or disappointment with God. Follow Jesus' example—don't shame them, but point them to evidence of God's faithfulness.
5. **Group Accountability:** Share which application you're committing to this week. Check in with each other mid-week, and plan to report back next meeting on what God showed you.