

**THE QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED PART IV**  
**LUKE 7 AND MATTHEW 16**  
**MARCH 16-17, 2019**

**INTRODUCTION**

- Jesus was a great teacher and all good teachers know that asking students questions can help them grow.
- Jesus asked a lot of questions some so penetrating that people were shocked by them.
- Today's questions have to do with clarifying who John the Baptist and Jesus are. Luke 7 and Matthew 16

**I. WHEN IT IS A STRUGGLE TO BELIEVE**

- God tests us all and it is easy to flunk the test.
- John the Baptist was in a huge test in Luke 7.
- He had been in prison for some time and it was eroding his faith.
- He sent his guys to ask Jesus if he (John) had missed something, who was Jesus really?
- Luke 7:24-28 NLT, "...Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see?...A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:... 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, Who will prepare your way before you...'"
- We have all been in a crisis that shook our faith.
- John baptized Jesus and declared Him to be the Messiah. Now he's questioning that.
- Jesus makes a huge statement, "Blessed is he who doesn't stumble over me."
- Vss. 24-30 - Jesus shifts the discussion and asks the people, "What did you go out into the desert to see?"

- Jesus said John the Baptist was more than a prophet, the one who would make a way for Him, the Messiah.
- John the Baptist was a great man who struggled with faith under pressure like us.

**II. WHO DO PEOPLE SAY I AM?**

- A question that is still asked about Jesus today.
- Who is He? What is He really about?
- Matthew 16:13-23, When Jesus...asked..."Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah..." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon... And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church..." Then He ordered His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.
- Jesus began to tell His disciples that He must suffer and be killed and on the third day be raised to life.
- Peter rebuked Him. "Never, Lord!" He said. "This shall never happen to you!"
- Jesus said, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me..."
- Peter goes from the top of the mountain to the bottom of the valley in no time.
- Peter's answer is supernatural, but he was still very human.
- The question opened a huge door to speak that Jesus was the Messiah, but He didn't want that shared until He was gone – Vs. 20
- On the rock - great stone, Peter will be foundational to the early church.

**CLOSE**

- Two questions - One about John the Baptist who is struggling with his faith and the other about the Messiah who came to redeem all of us who struggle.