



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of March 6, 2022

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 7:24-35

24 *When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. 26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell 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.' 28 I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." 29 (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, 30 but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) 31 "To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.' 33 For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' 35 Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."*

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

In this week's sermon Jesus praises John the Baptist as a prophet who fulfilled his role as a forerunner of the Messiah. However, as great as John the Baptist was, Jesus proclaims that even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. Post resurrection believers are in a far greater position than John because they have a clear understanding of Jesus' sacrifice for sins; something that John could only infer. Jesus then turns and addresses the crowd with a rebuke for their fickle unbelief that is never satisfied with Jesus' message of salvation.

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus praises John the Baptist for his single-minded dedication in his role as the forerunner for the Messiah. Insofar as you can remember, describe John's character and lifestyle and explain why these traits suited his unique role. Why do you think Jesus contrasts John's way of life to those who wear soft splendid clothes and live luxurious lives in kings' courts? Is it wrong for people to live such comfortable lives? Explain your answer.
2. Why do you think Jesus waited until after John's disciples departed, to praise and extol John to the crowds? Why is it important that Luke records these words of praise for us to read? What comfort does it bring to you knowing Jesus' praise of John was never communicated to John in this life?
3. Explain how the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than John the Baptist. Hint: use the analogy of how a dwarf who is sitting on the shoulders of a giant, can see further and has a better view than the giant.
4. Why do you think people can hear the gospel clearly explained and still reject the purpose of God in their lives? How might these people be compared to little children who are never satisfied?