

Luke 7:18-35 – The Real Deal

Sermon Outline

Context – Salvation (Life and Forgiveness) is a free gift of God's grace received through faith in Jesus.

Three barriers to faith:

Barrier No. 1 - The problem of being disappointed by Jesus (v18-23)

Barrier No. 2 - The problem of being blind to who Jesus really is (v24-28)

Barrier No. 3 - The problem of being impossible to please (v29-35)

Questions

Verses 16-23

1. Why was John the Baptist having his own doubts about Jesus?
2. Thinking of your own experience and the experience of others, what sort of situations can potentially lead to 'disappointment with Jesus'?
3. How does Jesus answer John and how does his answer help us?

Verses 24-28

4. Read Malachi 3:1 (one of the last promises of the Old Testament). If this was written about John (as Jesus says in Luke 7:27), what does this tell you about Jesus?
5. Why then does Jesus ask the crowd questions about John and their motivation when they went to see John and hear his message?
6. Why is the status of one who is 'least in the kingdom of God' greater even than the status of John the Baptist? What does this tell you about the importance of entering the kingdom of God?

Verses 29-35

7. Looking at verses 29 and 30, what was revealed about different groups by their contrasting responses to John the Baptist and what were the consequences in terms of their readiness to accept the words of Jesus?
8. In what ways did that generation show itself to be 'impossible to please'?
9. In what ways might we find people today 'impossible to please', whatever we emphasise in our presentation of the gospel?
10. Thinking about verse 35, who are wisdom's children and how is wisdom 'proved right by her children'? How does this encourage us to keep on following Jesus in a generation that generally dismisses, despises or ignores him?