



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Doubt Answered

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Capernaum and the Galilee region became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus challenged the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, John sent two of his disciples to ask if Jesus is the Expected One.

*“When the men came to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, ‘Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?’ ” At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. “Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”(Luke 7:20-23 NASB)*

**John the Baptist's purpose.** John understood his purpose as one who was called by God, a voice in the wilderness, “preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; (Luke 3:3) and “As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. “His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”(Luke 3:16-17) While John had a clear understanding of Old Testament prophesy, likely John may have been looking for the Messiah to bring judgment, aggressively over turned the government and religious leaders, and to free loyal followers. John, in prison, possibly had a different perception of what the Messiah would or should be doing. It is understandable that John did not thoroughly understand God timeline for The Expected One, Jesus, and the fruit or actions of Jesus' ministry.

**Jesus Responds.** Jesus responds in a manner that would reinforce what they had heard about Him. Jesus immediately cures many of disease, afflictions and evil spirits and giving sight to many who were blind. Luke records that John's disciples now have first hand eye witness accounts of Jesus' power and authority. Jesus directs John's disciples to tell John what they saw and heard. Additionally, Jesus quotes scripture that John would know and better understand when He say that the *“the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.” (Is 35:5, 6 & 61:1)* Jesus read the same passage earlier in the synagogue in Nazareth. On that occasion Jesus said that today the scriptures are fulfilled (Lk 4:16-21). Additionally, on that occasion, many were offended at the claim that Jesus was making about Himself. Jesus told those in the synagogue that day and subsequently was telling John's disciples that He was The Expected One, The Messiah.

**Jesus encourages John.** Jesus shared that people are blessed that do not take offense to Him. Contrary to those in the synagogue in Nazareth who took offense to Him, Jesus said that those that do not take offense to Him are blessed. Jesus encourages John by sharing that those that follow Him will be blessed. While John was called by God and a leader, a voice in the wilderness, John was a follower of Jesus and blessed.

### For Your Consideration:

- Like John in prison, during personal trials or tragedies have you doubted God, yet remained faithful even in your lack of understanding of God's will and timeline?
- Has man's ways and teachings influenced your thoughts to doubt God yet you have remained faithful to his ways?
- Are you one who does not take offense at Jesus? If so, you are blessed!

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## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44