

**Conclusion:** Is your life *extra difficult* right now? Are you tempted to blame Jesus, to question His love for you, to cry out: “Why me; what have I done to deserve this?”

Let’s think about John the Baptizer: He was in a miserable prison, while – *at the very same time* – Jesus was performing countless miracles. So John was struggling to understand; therefore, he sought reassurance. To the question: “Are you the Coming One?” John received a HUGE “Yes!” Then Jesus said to John and even to all Christians who are struggling to understand their circumstances: **Memory Verse → Luke 7:23**

**23 “Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”** Whether we can understand why or not, let us always remember that God is causing “all things to work together for good to those who love Him... (Romans 8:28 NAS)”

So what are you or your loved ones doing with this Jesus, this Coming One who came, lived, died, and rose? Some deny WHO He is. Others deny WHAT He has done.

**Application:** *But let us Christians:*

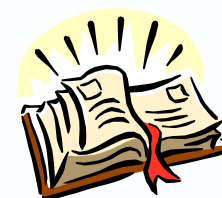
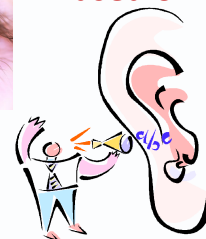
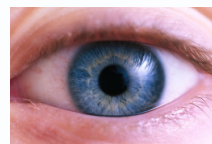
- *Be more convinced* that Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT prophecies about the Messiah.
- *Realize* that Jesus proved Himself with His actions.
- *Be permeated* with Jesus so that He has a positive influence upon ✦our daily lives, ✦our relationship with others, and ✦our assurance of heaven.
- *Share Jesus* – the reason for the season – with others.

And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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Please share them with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!  
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## “Who’s Birth are We about to Celebrate?”

Based on Luke 7:18-23 NIV



Third Sunday in Advent – 2009

Sunday, December 13 → 8:15 & 10:45

**Main Point:** *Jesus is the Promised One!*

**Introduction:** Dear friends, *in 13 days* it will be *Christmas Day!* Virtually all of us have begun to make our plans:

- When will we gather at church – *Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or both?*
- For whom should we buy gifts – *and what should we buy?*
- Where will we celebrate – *and with whom?*
- What will we eat – *and who will prepare it?*

Our planning is in progress, *but how much thought have we given to the Guest of Honor?* Is HE even invited?

Today, *as we look at Luke chapter 7 and other related passages*, may God ✦further convince us of who Jesus is, ✦cause us to make *the Christ* the center of our Christmas celebrations, and ✦encourage us to share Jesus with others!

1. **John Hears about Jesus’ Miracles:** <sup>18</sup> **John’s disciples told him about all these things.** *What things?* The miracles done by Jesus; here are two which are recorded earlier in Luke chapter 7:

- a. Verses 2-10: The servant of a centurion was sick and about to die; then, *without seeing or touching the man*, Jesus healed him!
- b. Verses 11-17: The only son of a widow was dead and being carried out of town, but Jesus, approaching the procession, *said to the dead man*: “Young man, I say to you, get up!” Then the Bible records *these amazing results*: The dead man sat up and began to talk... Then the people exclaimed: “God has come to help his people.”

John’s disciples may have also shared these miracles, as recorded in Luke chapter 4: “...the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.<sup>41</sup> Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ (Luke 4:40-41 NIV).”

*So how did John respond to that news about Jesus?*

- 2. **John Double-Checks about Jesus:** Calling two of them,<sup>19</sup> he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who was to come [literally, “Are you the Coming One”], or should we expect someone else?”
  - a. Lenski wrote: “‘the One coming’ undoubtedly signifies the Messiah and is used [commonly] in that specific sense (p. 403).”
  - b. These passages refer to *the Son of God* in reference to *His coming*:

- i. <sup>NIV</sup> **Psalm 118:26** “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD (Psalm 118:26 NIV).” *That is how Jesus came – in the name of the Lord!*
- ii. <sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 10:7** (which is a quote from Psalm 40:7): “Then I said, ‘Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.” (For the context, see verses 5-9.) So John and many Jews expected a *Certain Someone to come from God*; John, *in today’s text*, was merely double-checking to make sure that *Jesus* is that *Promised One!*

- 3. **Jesus’ Actions Speak Louder than Words:**<sup>20</sup> When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’” The question is clear and has been asked of Jesus, *so how will He respond?* The Bible records *WHEN* and *HOW* Jesus responded:

- a. <sup>21</sup> **At that very time** [literally, “in that hour”] **Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind.** *Can you imagine the situation?* Jesus heard the question; then, *without saying a word*, He got up and went to person-after-person, making each one *immediately* ✦well, ✦free from demon possession, or ✦able to see!
- b. <sup>22</sup> **So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.”**