

Scandalizing Misalignment

Luke 7:18-35



Luke 7:18-20

The disciples of John reported to him about all these things.

Summoning two of his disciples,
John sent them to the Lord, saying,

“Are You the Expected One,
or do we look for someone else?”

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?’”



Luke 7:21-23

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 7:24-26

When the messengers of John had left,
He began to speak to the crowds about John,
“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?
A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see?
A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly
clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces!
But what did you go out to see? A prophet?
Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.



Luke 7:27-28

“This is the one about whom it is written,
*‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way before You.’*

“I say to you, among those born of women
there is no one greater than John;
yet he who is least in the kingdom of God
is greater than he.”



Luke 7:29-30

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this,
they acknowledged God's justice,
having been baptized with the baptism of John.
But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose
for themselves, not having been baptized by John.



Luke 7:31-32

“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation,
and what are they like?

They are like children who sit in the marketplace
and call to one another, and they say,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’”



Luke 7:33-35

“For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’

The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’

Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”





Main Point

The King and His kingdom have come,
but our misaligned hopes and desires
scandalize us against them both.



Scandalizing Misalignment

The Scandal of the Coming One



The Scandal of the Coming One

John the Baptist's misunderstanding



Luke 7:18-19

The disciples of John reported to him about all these things.

Summoning two of his disciples,
John sent them to the Lord, saying,
“Are You the Expected One,
or do we look for someone else?”



Luke 7:18-19

The disciples of John reported to him about all these things.

Summoning two of his disciples,
John sent them to the Lord, saying,

“Are You the Expected One,
or do we look for someone else?”



Luke 7:18-19

The disciples of John reported to him about all these things.

Summoning two of his disciples,
John sent them to the Lord, saying,

“Are You the *Coming* One,
or do we look for someone else?”

Why might John have misunderstood?

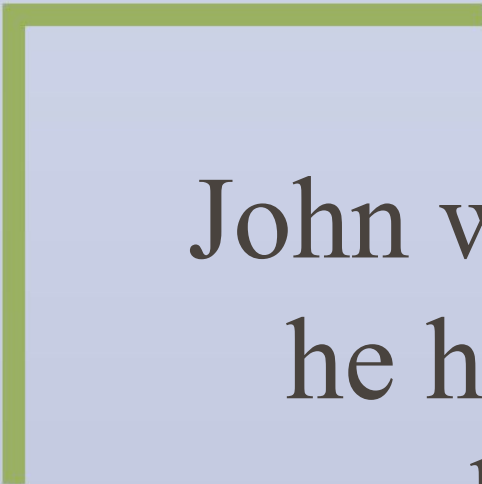


John's Circumstances

Luke 3:19-20

But when Herod the tetrarch was reprimanded
by John because of Herodias, his brother's wife,
and because of all the wicked things which Herod had done,
Herod also added this to them all:
he locked John up in prison.





John was in prison facing execution because
he had rebuked Herod for his corruption
while Jesus was eating and drinking
with tax collectors and sinners.

What was John's expectation?



Psalm 2:8-9

Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron,
You shall shatter them like earthenware.



Malachi 3:1

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.



Malachi 3:2-3

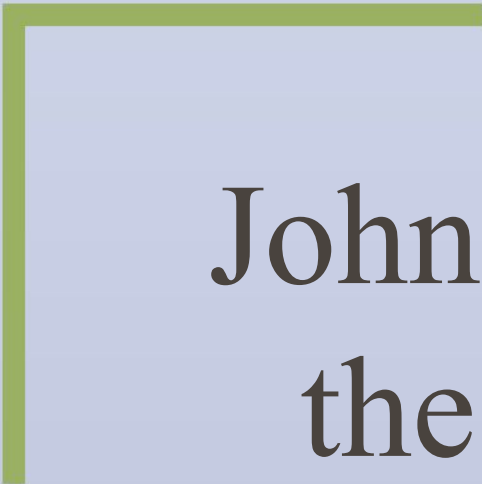
But who can endure the day of His coming?

And who can stand when He appears?

For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.”





John was understandably expecting
the Messiah to judge the nations
and bring about the fullness
of a restored kingdom.



The Scandal of the Coming One

John the Baptist's misunderstanding.

Jesus' redirection.



Luke 7:21-22

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.*”



Luke 7:21-22

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.”*



Luke 7:21-22

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.*”**



Luke 7:21-22

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.”

What did Jesus have in mind?



Isaiah 35:5-6

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened
And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.

Then the lame will leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
Because the LORD has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted.





John had restoration in mind, but Jesus
redirected Him to redemption first.

John had judgment in mind, but Jesus
redirected him to gospel mercy first.



The Scandal of the Coming One

John the Baptist's misunderstanding.

Jesus' redirection.

Our scandalizing hopes and desires.



Luke 7:22-23

“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 7:22-23

“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 is not
scandalized by me.”**





The King and His kingdom have come,
but the legalistic desires and material and
temporal hopes of our flesh are misaligned
with the King's purposes, tempting us
to disappointment and doubt.



1 Corinthians 1:23

But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block
and to Gentiles foolishness.



1 Corinthians 1:23

But we preach **Christ crucified**, to Jews *a scandal*
and to Gentiles **foolishness**.



Scandalizing Misalignment

The Scandal of the Coming One.

The Scandal of John the Baptist.



The Scandal of John the Baptist

What did you go to see?



Luke 7:24-26

When the messengers of John had left,
He began to speak to the crowds about John,
“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?
A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see?
A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly
clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces!
But what did you go out to see? A prophet?



Luke 7:24-26

When the messengers of John had left,
He began to speak to the crowds about John,

“**What did you go out into the wilderness to see?**

A reed shaken by the wind? But **what did you go out to see?**

A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly
clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces!

But **what did you go out to see?** A prophet?



Luke 7:24-26

When the messengers of John had left,
He began to speak to the crowds about John,
“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?

A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see?

A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly
clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces!
But what did you go out to see? A prophet?



Luke 7:24-26

When the messengers of John had left,
He began to speak to the crowds about John,
“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?
A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see?

A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly
clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces!
But what did you go out to see? A prophet?



Luke 7:24-26

When the messengers of John had left,
He began to speak to the crowds about John,
“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?
A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see?
A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly
clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces!

But what did you go out to see? **A prophet?**



The Scandal of John the Baptist

What did you go to see?

What did you find?



Luke 7:26-28

“But **what did you go out to see? A prophet?**

Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written,

*‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way before You.’”*

“I say to you, among those born of women
there is no one greater than John.”



Luke 7:26-28

“But what did you go out to see? A prophet?

Yes, I say to you, and **one who is more than a prophet.**

This is the one about whom it is written,
*‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way before You.’”*

“I say to you, among those born of women
there is no one greater than John.”



Luke 7:26-28

“But what did you go out to see? A prophet?
Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is written,

*‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way before You.’”*

“I say to you, among those born of women
there is no one greater than John.”



Luke 7:26-28

“But what did you go out to see? A prophet?
Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is written,
*‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way before You.’”*

“I say to you, **among those born of women**
there is no one greater than John.”





John was the greatest of the Prophets,
not because of his message, but because
he was the one chosen to prepare the way
for the King and His eternal kingdom.



The Scandal of John the Baptist

What did you go to see?

What did you find?

A scandalizing discovery.



Luke 7:28

“I say to you, among those born of women
there is no one greater than John;
yet he who is least in the kingdom of God
is greater than he.”

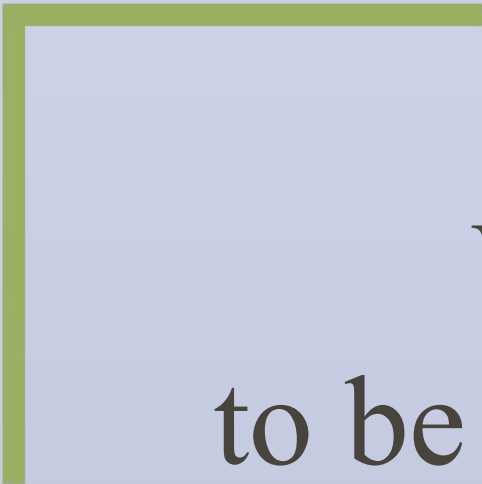


Luke 7:28

“I say to you, among those born of women
there is no one greater than John;

**yet he *who is least* in the kingdom of God
is greater** than he.”





We want our merits to matter,
to be able to boast of our achievements,
and the leveling effect of the gospel
scandalizes our flesh.

Note who listened to John and who did not.



Luke 7:29-30

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this,
they acknowledged God's justice,
having been baptized with the baptism of John.
But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose
for themselves, not having been baptized by John.



Luke 7:29-30

When all the people and **the tax collectors heard this,**
they acknowledged God's justice,

having been baptized with the baptism of John.

But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose
for themselves, not having been baptized by John.



Luke 7:29-30

When all the people and **the tax collectors** heard this,
they *justified God*,

having been baptized with the baptism of John.
But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose
for themselves, not having been baptized by John.



Luke 7:29-30

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this,
they justified God,

having been baptized with the baptism of John.

But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose
for themselves, not having been baptized by John.



Luke 7:29-30

When all the people and the tax collectors heard this,
they justified God,
having been baptized with the baptism of John.

**But the Pharisees and the lawyers
rejected God's purpose
for themselves**, not having been baptized by John.





The religious elite saw themselves as above the people in holiness and were scandalized by John's message of repentance for all.



Scandalizing Misalignment

The Scandal of the Coming One.

The Scandal of John the Baptist.

The Scandal of Jesus' Compassion.



The Scandal of Compassion

The complaint against compassion.



Luke 7:31-32

“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation,
and what are they like?

They are like children who sit in the marketplace
and call to one another, and they say,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’”



Luke 7:31-32

“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation,
and what are they like?

They are **like children who sit in the marketplace
and call to one another**, and they say,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’”



Luke 7:31-32

“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation,
and what are they like?

They are like children who sit in the marketplace
and call to one another, and they say,

**‘We played the flute for you, and you
did not dance;**

we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’”



Luke 7:31-32

“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation,
and what are they like?

They are like children who sit in the marketplace
and call to one another, and they say,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’”



Luke 7:33-34

“**For** John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’

The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’”



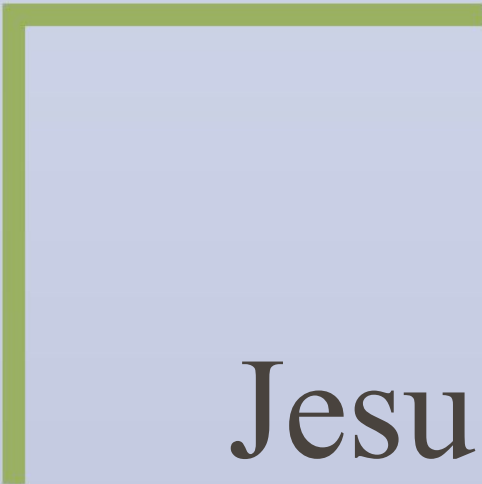
Luke 7:33-34

“For John the Baptist has come eating no bread
and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’

The Son of Man has come eating and drinking,
and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard,

a friend of tax collectors and sinners!”





Jesus' "friendship" with the outcast and sinner is what most scandalized the religious against Him.



The Scandal of Compassion

The complaint against compassion.

Vindication from the scandalous.



Luke 7:35

“Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”



Luke 7:35

“Yet *wisdom* is vindicated by all her children.”



Luke 7:35

“Yet wisdom is *justified* by all her children.”



Luke 7:35

“Yet wisdom is justified *by all her children*.”

All the tax collectors and sinners who repent and follow Christ are the children that justify God’s gospel wisdom.



Luke 7:29

**When...the tax collectors heard this,
they *justified God*,
having been baptized** with the baptism of John.





When scandalous sinners repent
and believe, they demonstrate God's
gospel power and wisdom.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
for it is the power of God for salvation
to everyone who believes.



For Reflection

Do your expectations of Jesus align with His intentions?

Does Jesus' *friendship* with sinners comfort you or make you uncomfortable?

Do you see *yourself* as the one most in need of Jesus' mercy and compassion?

