

**The Three Questions:
The Identity and The Gospel of Jesus**

Luke 7:18-50

Introduction

1. The Message of the Gospel of Jesus: Isaiah’s Message (Luke 4:16-19 ESV)
2. The Rejection of the Gospel of Jesus: Nazareth’s Rejection of Jesus Compared to Israel’s Rejection During the Time of Elijah and Elisha (Luke 4:24-30)
3. The Gospel of Jesus Revisited: The Message of Isaiah Revisited (Luke 6:20-26 ESV)
4. The Gospel of Jesus Heals the Centurion’s Servant: Revisiting Elisha Healing a Gentile Ruler (Luke 7:1-10)
5. The Gospel of Jesus Heals the Widow’s Son: Revisiting Elijah Raising the Widow’s Son (Luke 7:11-19)

1. John the Baptist Asks Who Jesus Is: Jesus’ Miracles Connected to the Miracles of Elijah and Elisha

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’”

Promise of Elijah: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” (Malachi 4:4-6 ESV)

Fulfillment of Elijah: From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. (Matthew 11:12-14 ESV)

In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.

Miracles of Elijah	Miracles of Elisha
1) Causing the rain to cease for 3 1/2 years (1Ki 17:1)	1) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:14)
2) Being fed by the ravens (1Ki 17:4)	2) Healing of the waters (2Ki 2:21)
3) Miracle of the barrel of meal and cruse of oil (1Ki 17:14)	3) Curse of the she bears (2Ki 2:24)
4) Resurrection of the widow's son (1Ki 17:22)	4) Filling of the valley with water (2Ki 3:17)
5) Calling of fire from heaven on the altar (1Ki 18:38)	5) Deception of the Moabites with the valley of blood (2Ki 3:22)
6) Causing it to rain (1Ki 18:45)	6) Miracle of the vessels of oil (2Ki 4:4)
7) Prophecy that Ahab's sons would all be destroyed (1Ki 21:22)	7) Prophecy that the Shunammite woman would have a son (2Ki 4:16)
8) Prophecy that Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (1Ki 21:23)	8) Resurrection of the Shunammite's son (2Ki 4:34)
9) Prophecy that Ahaziah would die of his illness (2Ki 1:4)	9) Healing of the gourds (2Ki 4:41)
10) Calling fire from heaven upon the first 50 soldiers (2Ki 1:10)	10) Miracle of the bread (2Ki 4:43)
	11) Healing of Naaman (2Ki 5:14)
	12) Perception of Gehazi's transgression (2Ki 5:26)
	13) Cursing Gehazi with leprosy (2Ki 5:27)

11) Calling fire from heaven upon the second 50 soldiers (2Ki 1:12) 12) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:8) 13) Prophecy that Elisha should have a double portion of his spirit (2Ki 2:10) 14) Being caught up to heaven in a whirlwind (2Ki 2:11)	14) Floating of the axe head (2Ki 6:6) 15) Prophecy of the Syrian battle plans (2Ki 6:9) 16) Vision of the chariots (2Ki 6:17) 17) Smiting the Syrian army with blindness (2Ki 6:18) 18) Restoring the sight of the Syrian army (2Ki 6:20) 19) Prophecy of the end of the great famine (2Ki 7:1) 20) Prophecy that the scoffing nobleman would see, but not partake of, the abundance (2Ki 7:2) 21) Deception of the Syrians with the sound of chariots (2Ki 7:6) 22) Prophecy of the seven-year famine (2Ki 8:1) 23) Prophecy of Benhadad's untimely death (2Ki 8:10) 24) Prophecy of Hazael's cruelty to Israel (2Ki 8:12) 25) Prophecy that Jehu would smite the house of Ahab (2Ki 9:7) 26) Prophecy that Joash would smite the Syrians at Aphek (2Ki 13:17) 27) Prophecy that Joash would smite Syria thrice but not consume it (2Ki 13:19) 28) Resurrection of the man touched by his bones (2Ki 13:21)
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And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard:

- the blind receive their sight,
- the lame walk,
- lepers are cleansed, and
- the deaf hear,
- the dead are raised up,
- the poor have good news preached to them.
- And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

Example of Job: A Type of John the Baptist (Job 38-39)

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

1. “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.
2. “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb,
3. “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place,
4. “Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?
5. “Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness,
6. “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
7. “Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt,
8. “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?
9. “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you?
10. “Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,
11. “Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the does?
12. “Who has let the wild donkey go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift donkey,
13. “Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your manger?
14. “The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are they the pinions and plumage of love?
15. “Do you give the horse his might? Do you clothe his neck with a mane?
16. “Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south?

2. Jesus Asks Who John the Baptist Is: Jesus' Identity Connected to John the Baptist

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?
- 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.
- What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

Elijah: “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare 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 3:1 ESV)

Moses: “Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. (Exodus 23:20 ESV)

Moses: “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Elijah: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” (Malachi 4:4-6 ESV)

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.”

(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

3. Jesus Asks Who This Generation Is: Nazareth's Rejection of Jesus Compared to Israel's Rejection During the time of Elijah and Elisha

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

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, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.” (Luke 7:1-35 ESV)

Parable of the Wine Skins:

And they said to him, “The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink.” And Jesus said to them, “Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.” He also told them a parable: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, ‘The old is good.’” (Luke 5:33-39 ESV)

A Pharisee and A Woman: Two Examples of This Generation (Luke 7:36-50)

A Pharisee: An Example of The Blindness of Israel During the Time of Elijah and Elisha (Luke 7:36-43)

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt."

And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."

A Woman: An Example of The Faith of A Widow and a Gentile Ruler During the Time of Elijah and Elisha (Luke 7:44-50 ESV)

Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon,

- "Do you see this woman?"
- I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.
- You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet.
- You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."

And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:36-50 ESV)