

Assignment – Oaklands Chapel - Sunday, April 26 2009

Lesson 22 “*Affirming the Messenger*” Luke 7:18-35

1. Read verses 18-23. Why do you think John sends these messengers? What might have been His expectations of the Messiah?
2. Read Isaiah 35:5-10; 61:1-2 and also Luke 4:18-19. How do these verses provide evidence for recognizing the kind of work Jesus was performing as marks of the Messiah?
3. Verse 23 is a blessing expressed in a negative way. What are the implications of Jesus’ words here? Talk about the practical realities of this statement in our world today? What other Scriptures support the idea that rejecting Jesus is rejecting God Himself?
4. Read verses 24-28. I. Howard Marshall suggests, “*The shaking of reeds in the wind was proverbial, and the metaphor suggests a wavering or easy-going person.*”<sup>1</sup> How does Jesus use this metaphor and the following one to emphasize the nature of John and his ministry?
5. Compare Malachi 3:1 with our text in Luke. Why do you think Jesus called him ‘more than a prophet’ and the greatest ‘among those born of woman’? Talk about the significance of his role.
6. Why do you think those who are ‘least in the kingdom of God’ are greater? What claim is Jesus making about Himself and His own work by means of these words?
7. Read 29-35. Talk about the reaction of the 2 groups – 1) ‘all the people, even the tax collectors’ and 2) ‘the Pharisees and experts in the law’. What challenge do we need to take for our own lives from the way in which Jesus addresses these groups? How do you understand the phrase, “wisdom is proved right by her children?”

<sup>1</sup> I. Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978) 295.