HOW TO RESPOND TO JESUS

Luke 7:18–35

Key Verse: 7:23

1. How did John hear about Jesus’ ministry (17–18)? What had he already said about him (3:16–17; cf. Jn1:29–34)? Where is he now (3:19–20)? How might this have affected him and his disciples? What does he send two of them to ask (7:19–20)? Why might they have been wondering about this?
2. What is happening when John’s disciples arrive (21)? What is Jesus’ answer, and what does he mean (22; cf. 4:18; Isa61:1–2; 35:5–6)? What is his conclusion, and what do his words mean to them and to us (23)?
3. What two rhetorical questions does Jesus ask the crowds, and what do they tell us about John (24–25)? What does it mean that he was a prophet (26)? What was special about him (27)? What is Jesus’ conclusion, and what does he mean (28)? Why do you think he is telling the crowds these things?
4. How does Luke contrast the responses (29–30)? What does it mean that the first group “declared God just,” and how is it connected to being “baptized by John”? (3:3,8) Why does Luke highlight the tax collectors here? What does he mean that the Pharisees rejected “the purpose of God for themselves”? What should we learn from this?
5. How does Jesus describe people’s general responses to John’s ministry and his own ministry (31–34)? What is he saying their problem is? What is his conclusion, and what is he teaching us here (35)?