Introduction:

1. Imagine if you were able to hear the voice of God. How amazing would that be? Surely, that would strengthen your faith in God. And imagine if you were able to see the Holy Spirit descend like a dove. How amazing would that be? Imagine if you had the opportunity to baptize the Son of God. How life changing would that be? Imagine if you could pick up the Bible and read about how great prophets like Isaiah and Malachi spoke about what you would do one day. How awesome would that be? John the Baptist didn’t have to imagine these things. He lived them, Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:1-2. How do you think these events would have strengthened the faith of John? Make no mistake, surely these events gave John the boldness he needed for his ministry, Luke 3:1-20. He carried out God’s mission with power.

2. And yet there is something that I can’t seem to stop thinking about. It was a perplexing question raised by John in Luke 7. His disciples shared with him what Jesus had done in the city of Nain, Luke 7:11-18. A miracle had taken place. Jesus had raised a dead man. And yet John would tell his disciples to ask Jesus this: “Are you the expected one or should we look for another?” Why would John ever ask that question? Why do you think John asked this question, Luke 7:19?

The Lesson:

I. The question

A. This is a challenging text. John’s question to Jesus raises questions for many.

B. There are a few reasons as to why John may have asked the question.

1. **Reason #1:** Maybe John had his doubts about Jesus as the Messiah. This may seem really far-fetched when you consider that…
   b. John recognized that Jesus existed before Him referring to His eternal existence, John 1:15. And it was John who said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, John 1:29.
   c. God had told John of the blessings that Jesus would bring, John 1:33-36. How could John have any doubts? There are a couple of things to remember.

2. John was a man just like us. Think about this for a moment. John had come in the spirit and power of Elijah, Luke 1:13-17; Malachi 4:5-6. Elijah experienced so much from God and yet he had doubts, 1 Kings 19:1-4. If Elijah had doubts, could not John? He was in prison after all! Prison changes men. Maybe it changed John.

3. **Reason #2:** Maybe John raised this question for the benefit of his disciples. Maybe he wanted to give them some assurance, that Jesus was the Messiah before His death, John 3:30. Yet this seems a little odd since his disciples were the ones who came to John excited about the miracle Jesus had performed. Did they really have questions about Jesus?
4. **Reason #3**: Maybe John didn’t have doubts per say, but had simply become impatient with Jesus. John had been the forerunner for Jesus. He had preached a stern message about the axe being laid to the root for those who did not repent. Was John anticipating some physical kingdom that Jesus would establish? Did he wonder why Jesus was not bringing judgment upon the unfaithful? And the fact that he was in jail, and Jesus was seemingly doing nothing may have just frustrated him. Was John trying to urge or prod Jesus to fully reveal His nature? Surely the plan couldn’t be for him to die in prison, right?

II. **The response**
      1. Whatever the reason for the question, the response by Jesus should have satisfied any concerns. Jesus didn’t come out and say; “YES” I am the expected one.
      2. But He did show and remind John’s disciples that indeed He was the expected one.
   B. Jesus gave John’s disciples evidence! The evidence would speak for itself.
      2. Maybe Jesus spoke in this way so John or His disciples would have no doubt that He was the expected one to come that was foretold by the prophets.

III. **The conclusion**
   A. Whatever the reason for the question, Jesus wanted John and his disciples to know one thing.
      1. They would be blessed if they didn’t stumble because of Him, [Luke 7:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207:23&version=ESV). Even if they had doubts or some unrealistic expectations about Jesus and what He would do, Jesus wanted them to know if they remained with Him they would be blessed.
      2. The evidence in His ministry was sufficient enough to ease any of their concerns. And the Father’s will was being done, even if it wasn’t what they thought it would be.
   B. What’s the point of all of this for us? Simple! We will be blessed if we don’t stumble!
      1. Maybe you’ve had doubts about Jesus. Maybe you’ve been disappointed with what Jesus hasn’t done for you. Remember that we will be blessed if we don’t stumble.
      2. Doubts will sometimes creep in our hearts. If John had doubts, Jesus didn’t condemn him, [Luke 7:24-28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207:24-28&version=ESV). Rather He praised him! When doubts arise, remember what you do know about Jesus. Remember His miracles and the empty tomb. Handle your doubts the right way. Don’t allow them to cause you to stumble. The blind have received sight, the lame walk, and the dead rise! Jesus is the expected one! Remember that.
      3. And when we feel that Jesus is not meeting our expectations, then maybe we need to read a little bit more from the scriptures to be reminded of God’s plan for us. Remember that God’s purpose needs to be our ultimate purpose!

**Conclusion:**
1. Blessed is He who does not stumble because of me! Do you want to be blessed?
2. Then don’t allow anything to get in your way of your relationship with Jesus.