

Study Guide for Oct. 1, 2000. Series: Our Great Savior. Text: Luke 7:24-35. A Great Messenger.

READING GUIDE:

DAY 1: Luke 7:24-35, Matt. 11:7-19 DAY 2: Malachi 1:1-2:17 DAY 3: Malachi 2:17-4:6

DAY 4: Matt. 3:1-20, Mark 1:1-8 DAY 5: John 3:22-36, 5:31-35 DAY 6: Psalm 31

1. Who stands out in your mind as an example of courage and truthfulness in the face of opposition?
2. The Person and Ministry of John. Jesus affirms the character and calling of John (Luke 7:24-27) with a set of three images or terms. What do you think Jesus clarifies by referring to John as . . .
 - A. **NOT** a *Reed swayed by the wind*?
 - B. **NOT** a *Man dressed in fine clothes*?
 - C. *A Prophet, YES more than a prophet*?

From what you read about John the Baptist (both in this passage in Luke and the others listed above), what are some of the characteristics we see in him that should be emulated in our lives and service?

3. The Promise of John from the last prophet, Malachi.
 - A. What does the prophet Malachi predict will occur **before** the day of the Lord (Mal. 3:1, 4:5-6)?
 - B. How does Jesus explain John to the crowds in the light of that promise (see also Matt. 11:12-15)?
4. The Place of John with respect to Jesus and the Kingdom of God. (Luke 7:28)
 - A. In what way is it true of John that, “Among those born of women there is no one greater?”
 - B. How is it true that, “The one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he (John)?”
 - C. What do the answers to those two questions above reveal about the importance of Jesus?
5. The Reaction to John and the Reaction to Jesus. There seems to have been a clear division between how, “All the people, even the tax collectors,” versus how, “The Pharisees and experts in the law,” reacted both to John and to Jesus. (Luke 7:29-30)
 - A. Describe the positive response.
 - B. Describe the negative response. (see also Luke 7:31-34)
 1. What did they say of John?
 2. What did they say of Jesus?
 - C. How would you describe your response to John’s message and its fulfillment in Jesus?