

THE FORERUNNER of THE MESSIAH- JOHN THE BAPTIZER

Luke 4:27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus (Elisha) the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

Luke 5: 12-14 And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on [*his*] face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. **13** And he put forth [*his*] hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.**14** And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Jesus proves He is a greater prophet than Elisha for He will cure many lepers.

Luke 7:11-28 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. **12** Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. **13** And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. **14** And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare [*him*] stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. **15** And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

Many sons of widows have died since the days of Elijah the Prophet (I Kings 17:17-24) and none of them have been raised ... until this prophet now ... who is plainly a greater prophet than Elijah and Elisha. But other prophets have prophesied that when the messiah comes He will raise the dead cf:

Isaiah 26:19 Thy dead [*men*] shall live, [*together with*] my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew [*is as*] the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Daniel 12:2-3 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [*and*] everlasting contempt. **3** And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever

Luke 7:16-17 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people. **17** And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.

Luke 7:18 And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things. **19** And John calling [*unto him*] two of his disciples sent [*them*] to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? **20** When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

Jesus is not doing what the Jews, even John the Baptist expected the Messiah as a Davidic King to do in the last days ... raise armies to drive out the hated Romans and establish the Kingdom of God on earth ... Yes, Jesus is doing a new thing.

Luke 7:21 And in that same hour he cured many of [*their*] infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many [*that were*] blind he gave sight.

Isaiah plainly taught the signs by which the Jews would know the Messiah.

Isaiah 35: 4-8 Say to them [*that are*] of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come [*with*] vengeance, [*even*] God [*with*] a recompence; he will come and save you. **5** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. **6** Then shall the lame [*man*] leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. **7** And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, [*shall be*] grass with reeds and rushes. **8** And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it [*shall be*] for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err [*therein*].

Luke 7:22-23 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. **23** And blessed is [*he*], whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Jesus calls upon the prophecies of Isaiah 35, 42 and 61 to be compared to His works as Proof He is the Messiah and therefore the Divine God Himself in the flesh.

The dead are raised up ... has reference to a plurality of resurrections; and here is proof that not all such wonders have been recorded by the sacred authors. Long after the synoptic Gospels were written, John recorded the raising of Lazarus; and there were many others raised to life from the dead. As an example at Jesus Matthew 27:52-53 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Blessed is he ... The clause introduced by these words shows that Jesus expected John to continue in the faith; and the passage immediately afterward indicates that Jesus knew he would continue.

Luke 7:24-25 And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? 25 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously appavelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts.

Luke 7:26-27 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. 27 This is [*he*], of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

The very least member of the coming Kingdom of God or Church of Christ has the righteousness of God counted unto them ... which is a standing before God far above the Old Testament saints.

Luke 7:29-30 And all the people that heard [*him*], and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

Luke 7:30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.

These verses are the key to the following rebuke by JESUS.

THE EXAMPLE OF THE FAULT-FINDING CHILDREN

Luke 7:31 And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like?

What are the leaders of Israel, the Pharisees and lawyers in V:30-31 like?

Luke 7:32 They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.

(A) They are like spoiled, rotten, rebellious children.

(B) We have piped – played a wedding song and they have not danced.

(C) We have mourned – played a funeral drudge and they have not mourned..

(D) Who is the we? – Jesus and John the Baptist

Luke 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.

John the Baptist was too serious!

Luke 7:34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

Jesus was not serious enough!

Luke 7:35 But wisdom is justified of all her children.

(A) JESUS' point is they didn't know what they wanted!

(B) But, beneath the uncertainty was a very determined resistance to God. They did not want Him!

(C) So, the LORD is asking" What do you really want

(D)– lukewarm – in Greek, khlee-ar-os: to warm – tepid - neither hot nor cold.

Revelation 3:14-17 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would

thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

SIMON'S BANQUET

Luke 7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

(A) It's not just JESUS and Simon. Verse 49 makes it clear it is a banquet of others with the very same attitude as Simon.

(B) The banquet was because JESUS was being proclaimed as the Messiah and the Pharisees gave it at Simon's house to investigate Him.

(C) A banquet required that the door be left open for uninvited guests and along the wall cushions were provided for them.

(D) As host for the banquet, Simon would greet the guests with the customary kiss on the cheek.

(E) Servants would wash their feet and anoint them with oil

Luke 7:37-38 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that [*Jesus*] sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And stood at his feet behind [*him*] weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe [*them*] with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed [*them*] with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw [*it*], he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman [*this is*] that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

(A) How could Simon forget the words of David?

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God [*are*] a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Isaiah 1:18-19 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Isaiah 57:14-16 And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people. 15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name [*is*] Holy; I dwell in the high and holy [*place*], with him also [*that is*] of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 66:2 For all those [*things*] hath mine hand made, and all those [*things*] have been, saith the LORD: but to this [*man*] will I look, [*even*] to [*him that is*] poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

(B) What concerned Simon is that the woman toucheth him. Which he feared would render him ceremonially unclean.

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

Only a sinner needs a Savior – Simon could not love

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

(A) Which debtor we identify with, the sinful woman or Simon, will show how we would receive the LORD into our house today.

(B) Can we think of those who have a greater need of forgiveness than me?

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that [*he*], to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

(A) Gratitude is the true motivation of love.

(B) Simon had offered sacrifice in the temple, as all Jews were obligated to do.

(C) But Simon had no personal experience or feelings that it (the sacrifice) was for him personally.

(D) Simon was a hypocrite!

Proverbs 26:18-28 18 As a mad [*man*] who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 So [*is*] the man [*that*] deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport? 20 Where no wood is, [*there*] the fire goeth out: so where [*there is*] no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. 21 [*As*] coals [*are*] to burning coals, and wood to fire; so [*is*] a contentious man to kindle strife. 22 The words of a talebearer [*are*] as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. 23 Burning lips and a wicked heart [*are like*] a potsherd covered with silver dross. 24 He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; 25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for [*there are*] seven abominations in his heart. 26 [*Whose*] hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the [*whole*] congregation. 27 Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him. 28 A lying tongue hateth [*those that are*] afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

E) Simon was a fool he could not admit that he was not always true ...

Simeon thought he could escape the all-seeing and knowing eye of God.

Psalms 14:1-7 1 To the chief Musician, [*A Psalm*] of David. The fool hath said in his heart, [*There is*] no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, [*there is*] none that doeth good. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, [*and*] seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are [*all*] together become filthy: [*there is*] none that doeth good, no, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people [*as*] they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD. 5 There were they in great fear: for God [*is*] in the generation of the righteous. 6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD [*is*] his refuge. 7 Oh that the salvation of Israel [*were come*] out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, [*and*] Israel shall be glad.

(F) Simon had to maintain an image!

Matthew 23:1-7 1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, [*that*] observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. 4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay [*them*] on men's shoulders; but they [*themselves*] will not move them with one of their fingers. 5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad

their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, 6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, 7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

Luke 7:44-46 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped [*them*] with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

(A) How could Simon justify his lack of common courtesy?

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, [*the same*] loveth little.

(A) In order to be one who loves, we must let GOD forgive us!

(B) Growing in grace means an ever increasing sensitivity to the areas of our life that need forgiveness and restoration.

Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

The KJV says Thy sins are forgiven, but this is a past tense verb in the Greek and should be translated has or Thy sins have been forgiven!

Luke 7:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

A) The parable went right over their heads.

(B) HE, who forgiveth sins also, is GOD in the flesh!

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [*was*] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

John 1:10-14 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as

many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [*even*] to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Luke 7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Peace – Hebrew shalom - JESUS, the Messiah, said shalom only to the woman!

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Coffman's commentary, Clarkes Commentary & B. W. Johnson's commentary.