PORTRAITS OF A PROPHET
Luke 7:18-30

**When we look at the portrait of John the Baptist in Luke 7
we see a contrast between a confused disciple
and a commendable one.**

I. **A CONFUSED AND DISCOURAGED DISCIPLE** (18-23)

 A. INFORMATION (18)
    - John's disciples inform him of Christ's most recent ministry

 B. FRUSTRATION (19-20)
   1. Question: John wants to know from Jesus, "Are the the coming Messiah or not?"
   2. Conditions: Things are not unfolding as John had envisioned them

 C. REASSURANCE (21-22)
   1. The power of personal testimony (21-22a)
       - God can and often does use the personal testimony of others to encourage us.
   2. The use of Scripture for encouragement (22b)
       - We get the best advice and greatest comfort when we look into God's word!
   3. Jesus does not ignore John's question nor rebuke him for asking - See James 1:2-5

 D. ADMONITION (23)
   1. Blessed are the unoffended
   2. Christ warns that those in John's situation might be tempted to become ensnared with doubts
   3. Christ encourages carefulness

 SUMMARY: *For the confused and discouraged prophet Christ offers hope.*

II. **A COURAGEOUS AND DISTINGUISHED DISCIPLE** (24-30)

 A. CHRIST'S COMMENDATION (24a)
    - Jesus gladly clarifies things for John and then commends him to the crowds

 B. JOHN'S CHARACTER (24b-25)
   1. The appeal of a man with conviction (24)
   2. The appeal of man who is manly (25)

C. JOHN'S ROLE (26-27)
   1. A prophet
   2. A predicted one - Mal. 3:1
   3. A preparer - Luke 3:4

D. JOHN'S GREATNESS (28)
   1. None greater (28a)
         - At his time in history none had been more privileged than John
   2. Some greater (28b)
         - The least in the kingdom is greater than John

E. JOHN'S EFFECTIVENESS (29-30)
   1. Bringing glory to God (29)
         - Those who heard him acknowledged God's righteousness
   2. Bringing people to a decision (30)

CONCLUSION:

   Even though we sometimes question Christ and become discouraged in our Christian life,
      we can remain committed to Him and commended by Him.

   If God snapped your picture today, what would your portrait portray?
      - Discouragement or distinction?