

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of dark green leaves. The leaves are covered with numerous small, clear water droplets, which are highlighted by a soft light source. The overall tone is dark and moody, with the green of the leaves appearing as deep forest greens. The text is overlaid on this background.

# It's Only Natural

John Chapter 7

## John Chapter 7

- <sup>18</sup> Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. <sup>19</sup> And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”
- <sup>20</sup> When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ ” <sup>21</sup> And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

Matthew 11:2 – "Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples...

# Why Did John of All Folk Ask This? Maybe...

- What he was dealing with caused him to doubt
- He was expecting the Messiah to establish the Kingdom right now
- He had expected his hopeless situation to change
- He felt like he had wasted his time trusting in Christ

We don't know for sure....but we can have a pretty good idea

It's only natural for doubt to creep in

# John Was In Prison....Can You Relate?

You can talk and sing about Jesus....but don't be surprised:

- If your situation up in here causes you to doubt trusting in Jesus
- Have you ever felt like Christ ain't with you or forgotten you?
- Have you expected your situation to have changed by now?
- Have you felt like you wasting your time trusting in Christ?
- Are you thinking about looking to somebody or something else for relief?

Don't trip....it's only natural

## Jesus' Response to John

- <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>23</sup> And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of Me.”

# What Jesus Tells John, Is What He Says to Us

Jesus is encouraging John through this response

- Points him back to prophecy (Isaiah 35 & 61)
- The scriptures confirm Jesus is the real deal
- Shows Jesus is following the steps, he's doing 5, 6 and 7 are next
- Works of mercy happening now, judgement and victory coming
- Ain't nothing wrong, stick with the plan

<sup>23</sup> And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of Me.”

- Don't trip, don't bounce, it's coming...follow the steps

# Isaiah 61

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me,  
Because the LORD has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;  
<sup>2</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,  
And the day of vengeance of our God;  
To comfort all who mourn,  
<sup>3</sup> To console those who mourn in Zion,  
To give them beauty for ashes,  
The oil of joy for mourning,  
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
That they may be called trees of righteousness,  
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

# The Greatness of John the Baptist

<sup>24</sup> When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? ....<sup>26</sup> But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is *he* of whom it is written:

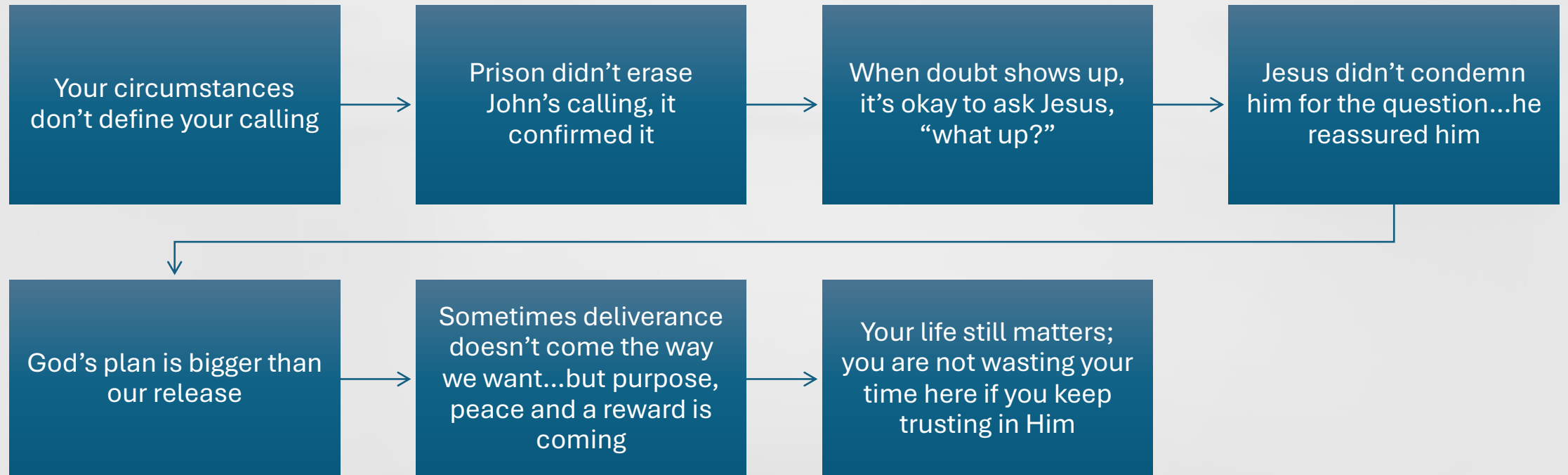
‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’

<sup>28</sup> For I say to you, among those born of women **there is not a greater prophet** than John the Baptist; **but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.**”

<sup>29</sup> And when all the people heard *Him*, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.



# Application for Us Today



Step	John the Baptist (Matt 11/Luke 7)
<b>1. Cross &amp; Need for Christ</b>	John in prison with little hope; in need
<b>2. Tomb &amp; Turning (death to self/expectations)</b>	This is John's "tomb" season—feeling some kind of way but sends his boys
<b>3. Resurrection Hope (mercy &amp; hope received)</b>	John sends disciples with his question—an act of <b>seeking hope</b> in the dark: "Are You the One?"
<b>4. Holy Spirit Revelation</b>	Through Jesus' word/works, John receives <b>Scripture-anchored confirmation</b>
<b>5. Mercy Mission (season now)</b>	John is invited not to stumble over Jesus' method/timing: "Blessed is the one <b>not offended</b>
<b>6. Second Coming - Victory</b>	In the middle of his problem, Jesus declares who he is and his greatness
<b>7. Inheritance &amp; Presence</b>	John does not escape prison, but he <b>enters glory</b> —his work complete; his reward secure



So....How You Gonna Roll?

Time to follow the steps....He's coming

It's only natural....but the supernatural is  
here



LINY

Lord I Need You

