

# **TIS THE SEASON**

## **Part 1: For Beating Discouragement**

**Intro/Theme:** We all have to face down times/seasons where our outlook is not bright at all. But with God's help we can navigate our way out and shorten the duration of that season in our life!

### **EVEN JOHN (LUKE 7:18-28 NKJV)**

- ❖ **An amazing man that you would not think would ever be discouraged**
  - ◆ Special birth
  - ◆ Big personality - strong, bold, confrontive, a maverick hipster
  - ◆ Blessed with a strong gift from God and a prophetic revelation of Jesus
- ❖ **Even John was discouraged - questioning if Jesus was the Messiah**
  - ◆ Easy to forget in the dark what you hear in the light
  - ◆ John's other challenge was being offended - that Jesus had not gotten him out of prison.

### **JESUS HANDLED JOHN WITH COMPASSION**

- ❖ **Jesus was kind to John**
  - ◆ Not disgusted or offended
  - ◆ Jesus reminded John that scripture was being fulfilled - quoted Isaiah
- ❖ **Jesus spoke highly of John**
  - ◆ Referred to what the scriptures said about John
  - ◆ Called John the greatest prophet born to woman

### **NAVIGATING YOUR WAY OUT OF DISCOURAGEMENT**

- ❖ **Guard your heart from being offended**
  - ◆ Offense - half hurt half mad
  - ◆ A common reason is unmet expectations from others
  - ◆ So many offended at God - Jesus said the blessed are the ones not offended
- ❖ **You can't always change the problem but you can always change your perspective**
  - ◆ Look for the good things God is doing - remember the good things God has done
  - ◆ Let scripture become a major source of input (***Psalm 119:130 NKJV***)
- ❖ **Believe that Heaven thinks highly of you**
  - ◆ He has compassion for you - He is not calling out your failures
  - ◆ He is not disgusted with your sins
  - ◆ You are a part of God's Kingdom even greater than John the Baptist (***1 Peter 2:9 NKJV***)