

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***)