

**THE BIG IDEA: The Son is the one.**The Take-Off

With the growing number of dating sites available online, I think it's safe to say that we're a country that can relate to the question that is at the center of our text this morning: "Are you the one?" (verses 19 and 20)

I'm sure you've heard of eHarmony, right? It's the 5th most popular dating website so far this month, and it boasts an impressive 7.1 million visitors to its website each month.

But that many visitors only got it ranked at number 5!

The second most popular site - PlentyOfFish (yes, I've never heard of that one!) - had a little more than 3x that number of visitors at 23 million, and the most popular dating site - Match.com - had 5x as many visitors. They average 35 million unique visitors a month.

A lot of people are looking for "the one" and that doesn't even count our obsession for watching others try to find "the one" - that's what has made The Bachelor and The Bachelorette so popular.

Now, it's been awhile since we were in Luke, so let me remind you that this entire book was written to answer the question that John the Baptist is asking Jesus here in Luke 7.

Theophilus funded Dr. Luke's investigation into the crazy stories that were circulating about Jesus because Theophilus wanted to know if the stories were true and - even more importantly - was Jesus' claim to be the Messiah true.

And that's where we find ourselves in chapter 7.

John the Baptist - through his disciples - has sent a message to Jesus, and the message simply asks, "Are you the one?"

**1. With Jesus, it's one or none**

- a. One and done - it's something sports fans are used to
- b. Your team makes it to the tourney and then they lose in the first round - they're "one and done"
- c. With Jesus, it's one or none, meaning either He is the one, or it's time to move on
- d. Black and white - no middle ground on this one, and I love that John the Baptist recognized that
- e. This question is so important that John isn't wasting time "dating" Jesus - either you are the one, or I'm looking for another one, but I'm not playing around with you
- f. So, let's ask the question, too: "Is Jesus the one?" Is He the Messiah?
- g. I'm not going to take a lot of time on this because all of you have been given a flow chart that illustrates the answers to that question, but there are only 2 possible answers to the question: yes or no
- h. The world's most popular answer - well, kind of - isn't an option.
- i. Of course, no one says it like that. What they say is that Jesus was a "good moral teacher" but as we'll see, that's not an option.
- j. Here's why: since Jesus claimed to be God, He can't be JUST a good moral teacher. Either He is God or He isn't, and if He isn't, then He is either a liar because He claimed to be God but knew He wasn't (which wouldn't make Him a moral teacher) or He is a lunatic because He truly believed He was God but wasn't (which wouldn't make Him a good teacher).
- k. Yes or no. As C. S. Lewis said, Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord.
- l. "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." - Mere Christianity

**2. When Jesus is Lord, difficulties won't derail us**

- a. In case you haven't noticed it, let me say it clearly: making Jesus Lord doesn't make life perfect, and I love the fact that God doesn't pretend it does. Time and time again He shows us that in the word, and this passage is no different.
- b. Jesus is the one and John is facing difficulties, so don't think difficulties won't come.

- c. The truth is that when we accept Jesus as Lord and live our lives accordingly, we'll face difficulties.
- d. The difference is that the difficulties won't derail us.
- e. Let's see how that was true in John's life. Here are 3 difficulties that he faced because Jesus was the one:
  - Difficult situations (Luke 7:18-28)
    - i. We don't know it from Luke, but we know from Matthew's account in Matt. 14 that the reason John had to send a message to Jesus is because John was in prison and would later die in prison
    - ii. That's a difficult situation, and Jesus being Lord didn't end up freeing John
    - iii. But he died with the confidence of knowing that the Messiah had come - no doubts because he took his doubts to Jesus
    - iv. Jesus said that John was the greatest man ever born! Greatness in the kingdom is never tied to the circumstances we're in, but to the confession of Jesus as Lord.
  - Difficult people (Luke 7:29-32)
    - i. Do you know people who cannot be pleased no matter what you do?
    - ii. Jesus said that about the people who John dealt with
    - iii. Play 'em a happy song and they don't dance, so try a sad song but they don't cry
    - iv. They were difficult, and you and I will encounter difficult people when we say Jesus is the one
  - Difficult criticism (Luke 7:33-35)
    - i. It's one thing to deal with difficult people, but John (and Jesus) got to deal with the hurtful words that those difficult said.
    - ii. John had to hear difficult criticism from difficult critics
    - iii. What makes someone a critic? When their criticism of you makes them look smarter instead of making you get better.
    - iv. You can't win with them, and so they called John a demon because he didn't eat bread or drink wine and they called Jesus a glutton and a drunk because He did.
- f. Jesus' advice for how to face the difficulties that come from believing in Him as Lord?
- g. Wisdom is proved right by her actions (Luke 7:35)
- h. What's the wisest thing we can do? Recognize that Jesus is the one! He is Lord! (Proverbs 9:10)
  - Fear (reverence) of the Lord (Jehovah)
  - Isaiah 45:23 says every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jehovah is Lord
  - Philippians 2:9-11 says that of Jesus

### The Landing

That's a lot to take in, so let's see if we can wrap this up in a way that makes sense, and we're going to use the most famous paradigm shift in history to do it

It all started with a man name Ptolemy, and he had a theory that everything that we could see in the sky revolved around the earth

For over 1200 years, people held to the theory even though it didn't really match up to what they were seeing, and they came up with complicated explanations for why planets sometimes seemed to stop, or even move backward Then came a man name Copernican who suggested (and was branded a heretic for it) that the sun was the center of the universe, and that one shift in the model caused everything to make sense

The same is true about the S-O-N.

If we believe that everything revolves around us, we will have a hard time in the difficulties that are sure to come But if Jesus is Lord - if the Son is the One - then we can stand in difficult situations and survive difficult people and criticism because it isn't all about us.

The Son is the One, and that makes all the difference.

Let's pray.