



July 24, 2022

“Field of Vision”

Luke 7:18-35

Field of Vision

Focus point, peripheral, and depth

Cannot have total clarity at the same time

Labels, concepts, categories, and words carry similar limitations

John Looking at Jesus

The muddiness of Messianic prophecy: Psalm 2:7-9; Isa 9:6-7; 11:1-9

John's prophecy of burning the chaff: see Luke 3:17

The puzzling fizzles of John the Baptist's ministry and Jesus' mercy approach

Doubt and questions coming from such a hero: 7:18-20

Jesus' answer: Isaiah signs: see Isaiah 35:5-6; 26:19; 29:18-19; 61:1

Note the possible encouragement preceding the passage in Isaiah 35 (see verses 3-4)

Field of vision complexity presents the possibility of getting trapped

It's not that we can see what is real, we just can't see all of it at the same time

Circles and mirrors and a little poem

Blessed is the one who is not offended by Me: 7:23

Expect to be tempted to be offended by Jesus

People Looking at John

Someone commonplace (a reed shaken by the wind)? 7:24

A well-dressed court official? 7:25 The forerunner prophet? 7:26-28

Elijah? (**yes!** (Matt 11:14; 17:12; Luke 1:16-17) and **no!** (Matt 17:11; John 1:21))

The greatest of the old age, but something less than the least in the kingdom of God: 7:28

Critics Looking at John and Jesus

John and Jesus come in almost opposite molds, and critics find a way to resist both

The sign of someone who has made up their mind ahead of time

Placing the picture in front of the surveillance camera

Humble posture of always looking, always learning

Moving forward based on what we see but prepared to be surprised

The best language we have: God is love: 1 John 4:16