

# Luke 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things.

## Analysis

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**And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things.** John the Baptist, now imprisoned by Herod Antipas (3:19-20), receives reports from his disciples about Jesus' ministry. The verb "shewed" (ἀπήγγειλαν, apēngelan, "announced" or "reported") indicates detailed testimony about Jesus' miracles, teaching, and growing influence. The phrase "all these things" (περὶ πάντων τούτων, peri pantōn toutōn) refers specifically to the preceding context: the raising of the widow's son at Nain (vv. 11-17), but likely includes Jesus' broader Galilean ministry—healings, exorcisms, the Sermon on the Plain (6:20-49), and table fellowship with sinners.

This report prompts John's famous question in verse 19: "Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?" The verse sets up one of Scripture's most poignant moments—the forerunner's crisis of doubt. John's disciples maintained loyalty to their imprisoned teacher while simultaneously observing Jesus' ministry. Their reporting function was crucial: John could not witness Jesus personally, so he depended on secondhand accounts. This highlights the importance of faithful testimony—how we report Christ's works can strengthen or trouble faith.

## Historical Context

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John was imprisoned in the fortress of Machaerus, east of the Dead Sea, by Herod Antipas for denouncing Herod's marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife (Mark 6:17-18). Despite imprisonment, John's disciples maintained contact with him and continued their own semi-independent movement. Their ongoing loyalty created potential competition with Jesus' disciples (compare John 3:25-26), though

John had clearly identified Jesus as superior (Luke 3:16). John's imprisonment lasted approximately a year before his execution at Herod's birthday feast (Matthew 14:1-12).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does John's dependence on his disciples' testimony illustrate the vital role of faithful witness-bearing in Christian community?
2. What does this verse teach about the validity of doubt and questioning even among the most faithful believers?
3. How should Christians respond when their expectations of how God should work don't align with His actual methods?

## Interlinear Text

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Καὶ ἀπήγγειλαν Ἰωάννη οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ περὶ<sup>1</sup>  
**And** **shewed** **of John** **the** **disciples** **him** **of**  
G2532 G518 G2491 G3588 G3101 G846 G4012

πάντων τούτων  
**all** **these things**  
G3956 G5130

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