

Luke 7:23

“And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.” NASB

I would like for you to also consider two other translations of this verse: The NIV puts it like this, **“Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”** Finally, the NKJV says it this way, **“And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”** Stumble, fall away and offended; three different ways of describing what has and still happens to people, when the Lord doesn't move the way they think He should. Since Jesus walked this earth, man has become offended with Him. This scripture refers to Jesus own cousin, John the Baptist, who was in jail because he spoke out against the incestuous and adulterous relationship between Herod and his brothers wife, Herodias. Remember this is the same John the Baptist who as a baby in his mothers womb, leaped when Mary who was pregnant with Jesus went to see her cousin Elizabeth. This same John spoke of Jesus and even baptized Him. Yet while in prison, he was struggling with why Jesus wasn't doing what John thought he should do. So much so, that John sent his disciples to Jesus, to confirm that truly Jesus was the Christ or Messiah. The word Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah. John understood prophetically that the Messiah was coming to establish His kingdom on earth, so why was Jesus waiting to deliver His people from the Roman rule that they were under. Why was John still in prison, when the Messiah could certainly deliver him?

All too often, people walk away from the Lord, because He did or didn't do what they thought He should do. Perhaps a love one was sick, and they prayed with all of their hearts; yet that love one still perished. Perhaps some financial catastrophe occurred, and they had faithfully tithed all of their lives. Maybe their spouse left them or had an affair. Their pastor or church had turned against them for something that they never did. Their child was taken prematurely from them. There are so many reasons why people have become offended with Jesus, and have walked away from Him and His church. But, none of them are justified! Friends there is nothing that is worth becoming offended with Jesus Christ. Satan will try and come in like a thief in the night, to rob you of your relationship with Jesus; but don't allow him. I'm not saying that we always understand why things happen the way they do; but we must always trust that Jesus is working in our behalf!

If you have become with offended with Jesus, I exhort you today, to repent, to turn and go back to Him! He loves you unconditionally and He is waiting for you to return back to Him. Ask Jesus to forgive you for being offended, and to restore you back into His loving arms.