

## “JOHN THE BAPTIST DOUBTS”

“After Jesus had finished instructing His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. <sup>2</sup> When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask Him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?

<sup>8</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. <sup>9</sup> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”  
– Matthew 11:1-11

### WHAT WE WILL LEARN IN THIS SERIES?

1. That we sometimes doubt if God is really God!
2. That doubt is common among all of us.
3. That doubts usually come to us when we face difficult times or when we feel alone.

### WAIT! WHICH JOHN IS THIS?

- It is John the Baptist - who had been bold.  
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” – Matthew 3:2
- It is John the Baptist - who had identified Jesus as the Messiah.  
“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” – John 1:29

### WHY JOHN WAS IN PRISON

- The story of all the Herods (and one Herodias).

### JOHN’S DOUBT

- John was in prison, lonely, knowing death was a real possibility.
- He needed to be reassured that the One he had been pointing to was the right One.  
“**Are you the one** who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” – Matt. 3:3

### JESUS’ RESPONSE

- Look at the evidence, the miraculous signs. Become eyewitnesses.  
“Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” – Matthew 3:5
- He is saying that He is fulfilling the prophecies of the Messiah.  
“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...” – Isaiah 61:1
- He is pointing to what had been promised and what He has done.

### JOHN WAS GREAT. BUT JOHN DOUBTED LIKE US.

- John’s faith wasn’t perfect. And neither is ours.  
“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” – Matt. 3:3

So what does this mean for us and our doubts today?

### WE ADDRESS OUR DOUBTS AS JOHN DID:

1. John went to Jesus.  
“When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples...” – Matthew 11:2
2. John asked questions.  
“... he sent his disciples **to ask Him**, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” – Matthew 11:2,3
3. John checked out eyewitnesses.  
“Jesus replied, “Go back and **report to John what you hear and see...**” – Matthew 11:4
4. John sought for evidence.  
“Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> **The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.**  
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