

“DOUBTING THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL”

“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?

⁸ 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. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹ 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. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people lay hold of it. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ Whoever has ears, let them hear.

¹⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: ¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’

¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her actions.” – Matthew 11:7-19

LAST WEEK WE LEARNED...

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

HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL?

1. He is in control for He knows and controls the future.

“This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’” – Matthew 11:10

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple; the messenger of the covenant, who you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.” – Malachi 3:1

2. He is in control for He knows and controls the present while giving us a free will.

“And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ Whoever has ears, let them hear.” – Matthew 11:14

The present: *“If you are willing to accept it.”*

The future: *“He is (will be) the Elijah.”*

The past: *“Who was to come.”*

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

– Malachi 4:5

“And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” – Luke 1:17

Had the Jewish people accepted John as the Elijah and Jesus the Messiah, the earthly kingdom of Christ would have been established 2000 years ago!

3. He is in control for He is not controlled by human opinions.

“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: ¹⁷ ‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

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But wisdom is proved right by her actions.”

– Matthew 11:16-19

- He says that people are fickle.
- He says, wisdom is as wisdom does.

4. He is in control for He is the king and has established His kingdom through a new covenant.

“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people lay hold of it. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.”

– Matthew 11:12,13

5. He is in control for He is able to make you even greater than John the Baptist.

“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 11:11

HOW DO I RESPOND?

1. Remember that Jesus knows your past, present and future.
2. Trust Him! He is in control.
3. Respond in your heart to what He’s saying to you right now.

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