



Lesson #5: Doubt (John the Baptist)

Many Christians struggle with doubt. Even strong believers can struggle at different times during their lives. As we turn to Matthew 11 this evening the details in this text help us learn what it means to deal with doubt. In Matthew 11 we read that John the Baptist is in _____. He is asking a question that is more than remarkable, it is almost appalling. The herald of the king, that has had such enormous success in preaching ministry, is asking in verse 3, “*art thou He or do we seek _____.*” Some are so blown away by that question that they think John was not asking for his own benefit but the benefit of his _____. But verse 4 makes it clear that John was the one asking when Jesus says, “*Go and shew _____.*” Even the greatest of the Old Testament prophets struggled with the common issue of doubt.

Matthew 11 teaches us that we need to _____ our doubts before we doubt our _____.

WHEN YOU ARE DOUBTING _____ UP! (Matt. 11:1-3)

A. Speak up when your _____ are _____

When we meet up with John in this passage he is in the midst of the lowest station in his entire life. John had been thrown into prison (Matt. 4:12).

B. Speak up when your _____ are _____

“The _____” was a common designation for the Messiah. The fact that John instructed his disciples to ask, “*or shall we look for another one.*” Many believer’s struggle with shattered expectations because their expectations are _____-centered and not _____-centered.

C. Speak up when your _____ are _____

Although John had “*heard of the works of Christ,*” his information was secondhand and not _____. Many believer’s today also doubt certain truths about God because of _____ information. The Christian who is immersed in _____ has no reason to stumble.

WHEN YOU ARE DOUBTING _____ UP! (Matt. 11:4)

Jesus tells John’s disciples to show him _____ what He has done. The remedy for doubt has to do with _____. Jesus wants John to be reminded again of what the Messiah had come to earth to do.

Repetition of God’s truths serve as the balm to cure the doubtful. You need to be reminded of what God is doing so you can hold it alongside God’s Word. Only then can doubt be defeated! We need to hear over and over again what God has done. Even in times of insecurity about your _____ you need to run to the Word and begin to erase doubt b that repetition of that which you know.

WHEN YOU ARE DOUBTING _____ UP! (Matt. 11:5-6)

Doubt pulls your gaze off _____, and faith puts your gaze back on _____!

A. Look up and remember how Jesus _____ (v. 5a)

Have you forgotten about what God has done? You need to do whatever it takes to _____ God. Remembering who God is and who we are is another antidote to doubt. If we see our world, our lives, and our circumstances through the lens of the _____, everything will come into focus.

B. Look up and remember what Jesus _____ (v. 5b)

Jesus proclaimed the _____! If John were to consider not only what Jesus had done but what He had _____ He would have answers that would cure His doubt.

C. Look up and remember _____ Jesus is (v. 6)

So who is Jesus? For 2,000 years people have been asking this question. That sixth verse in this passage is a “_____.” Jesus is saying that the truly happy man is one who is not tripped up on account of Jesus.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

King Jesus is walking down the aisle right now. Let’s ask a few questions.

- Is He _____? Jesus said, “*I am the truth*” (John 14:6)
- Is He _____? The Bible says, “*Greater love has no man than this ...*” (John 15:13)
- Is He able to meet your _____? Jesus says, “*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*” (Matthew 28:28)
- Is He _____ to meet your needs? Jesus says, “*Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest*” (Matthew 11:28)

Jesus is honest, loving, powerful, and available. There is no reason to doubt Him.