

Study Guide
Matthew 11:1-19
The Kingdom Has Come!

Big Idea: Doubt is normal! How we respond makes all the difference.

1. Share a crisis moment in your life when you doubted the goodness of God.
2. Read Matthew 11:1-15. Discuss the greatness of the ministry of John the Baptist. Find several single words that describe his ministry. Read Malachi 4:5, and discuss the link Jesus made between Elijah and John the Baptist. Why do you think God sent John?
3. Read Matthew 11:16-19. Discuss the cynical spirit of the people of Israel. What is the danger of being cynical?
4. Let's go back to Matthew 11:2-6. What happened to John that took him from the great messenger of God, to wrestling with honest doubt? Discuss each point on how John dealt with doubt:
 - a. John took his doubts to Jesus
 - b. John was pointed to the full story of God
 - c. John was challenged to find blessing in not being offended

Application

How have you seen God at work during this Covid crisis?

Message Slides

Benevolence & Care Team

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Community Group

Groups@communityfellowship.com

Responding to the Kingdom graphic

Big Idea: Doubt is normal! How we respond makes all the difference.

A. John the Baptist (v.1-15)

When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

A. John the Baptist (v.1-15)

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

A. John the Baptist (v.1-15)

"Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Malachi 4:5

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes."

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John 3:30

"He must increase and I must decrease!"

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John the Baptist- Strong, disciplined, God's messenger, great, predominant, humble!

A. John the Baptist (v.1-15)

¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

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B. Mainstream Culture- Cynical (v.16-20)

¹⁶"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, ¹⁷"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

Yoani Sanchez

"... we never believed in anything...that is a double-edged sword. It protects you from crushing disappointment, but it paralyzes you from doing anything. To be cynical is to be distant...it actually destroys intimacy."

C.S. Lewis

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Your will be done.'

All that are in Hell choose it. Without that self-choice, there could be no Hell."

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C. Dealing with Doubt (v.2-6)

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

Big Idea: Doubt is normal! How we respond makes all the difference.

1. John took his doubts to Jesus!

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2. John was pointed to the full story of God.

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3. John was challenged not to take offense

Reflection

I will not break a bruised reed. (Isaiah 42:3)

I will not abandon you to Sheol! (Psalm 16:10)

I will not condemn you. (Romans 8:1)

I will never leave you or forsake you. (Heb. 13:5)

I will comfort you in your trials. (2 Cor. 1)

My love will never fail. (1 Chron. 16:34)

If you search for Me, you will find Me. (Deut. 4:29)

I will finish the work I started in you. (Phil. 1:6)

When you pray, I will give you peace. (Phil. 4:6-7)

When you come to Me, I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28-30)