

# "FROM DOUBTS in the DUNGEON to CONFIRMATION of the KINGDOM"

Mt.11.1-6 - Matthew Series: 'THE KING IS COMING' #157

January 23, 2022

## 1) TOUGHTIMES

### 2) INCOMPLETE REVELATION

John had no direct **contact** with Jesus after the baptism.

Many believers today doubt certain truths about God ...

- because of incomplete information,
- because they have inadequate knowledge or
- because they lack understanding of His Word.

Information – Knowledge - Understanding

The Christian who is immersed in **Scripture** has no reason to stumble.\*

When God is allowed to speak through His Word, **doubt** vanishes like mist in the sunlight.

The Christian who is immersed in Scripture has no reason to stumble

As Jesus was speaking to them, the truth of His Word began

- dispelling their **doubts** &
- building up their **faith**.

We (I) need the continual truth of His Word

- to **protect** us from doubt &
- to **dispel** doubt when it comes.

### 3) WORLDLY INFLUENCE

1) The Messiah was expected first of all to **free Israel**.

2) The Jewish people thought the Messiah would eliminate all **suffering** ...

Many Jews envisioned a type of **welfare** state, where all their material needs would be provided.  
[to John]:

- ✚ No **visible** kingdom was in sight.

A misconception was that His (Messiah's) coming would be **preceded** others (e.g. Elijah, Jeremiah).

Jesus' own disciples had some misconceptions concerning the Messiah - ideas they had formed from the world around them **clouded** & **distorted** their understanding.

All of them had been **victimized** by what people around them thought the Messiah should be & do.

The people disregarded or **misconstrued** whatever Jesus said or did that did not fit those ideas.

Because the Lord does not fit preconceived ideas people are often **indignant**.

Because they did **not belong** to Him, the Jews who would not believe Jesus' claim to messiahship.

Ignorance & unbelief **blind** the eyes of men to the **realities** of the kingdom that are all around them.

### 4) UNFULFILLED EXPECTATIONS

John knew that what he preached was **true**, & he knew Jesus was the one about **whom** he preached.

Jesus demonstrated miracle-working power, but He used it only to save & heal, never to **judge**.

It has always been hard for believers to **understand** why God suffering.

John had a deep devotion to righteousness & was called by God to preach **repentance** & **judgment**.

When many years pass & Jesus does not come, Christian's **hope** often fades.

### III. JESUS REASSURES JOHN vv.4–6

Jesus told John's disciples to present their teacher the **evidence** - it would be a **reminder**.

It must have thrilled John's heart to receive fresh **confirming** evidence.

Jesus did nothing to **relieve** John's physical confinement & suffering. John's circumstances did not **improve**; in fact, he was soon beheaded.

The Gospel, and Jesus' messiahship are great **stumbling** blocks.

They went to Jesus because He was the most **important** Person in John's life.

When he died, John did not have all his questions answered.

John was content to leave in the Lord's **hands** the many things he did not yet understand—  
& that is the secret of being **blessed** & of not **stumbling**.

Doubt does not cause a believer to **lose** his relationship to the Lord, because God is faithful.

Even when we doubt Him, God is faithful to us.  
*Only* by going to Him as John did can our doubts be relieved.