

"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.