

Matthew 11:1-5 Doubts Answered

Introduction: This text deals with a man of great faith in Jesus, John the Baptist. This man of great faith came to doubt. In our text his doubts are answered.

Jesus had finished giving the Limited Commission to the twelve. The twelve had left to carry out their mission. Jesus also left and went to “their cities.” (The cities in Galilee where the apostles had lived.) He was accompanied by disciples, but not by the twelve. In these cities Jesus performed many miracles.

I. John's doubts, verses 2-3.

A. This is John the Baptist.

1. This is the man who baptized Jesus.
2. This is the man who publicly identified Jesus as being the promised Messiah, the Christ.
3. This is the man who had persuaded some of his disciples to stop following him and to follow Jesus instead.
4. He was glad to see the ministry of Jesus increase.
5. But now John is having doubts that Jesus is the Christ.

B. One thing that accounts for this doubt is his imprisonment, verse 2.

1. Herod had arrested John and put him in prison. (After many days in prison, John got despondent and his mind began to get confused.)
2. Perhaps he wondered “If Jesus really is the Christ, then why has He not gotten me out of prison?”

C. Another thing that puzzled John was that Jesus was not doing what he had expected the Christ to do.

1. John had preached hard against sin and he had expected Christ to bring swift judgment on sinners, but instead Jesus showed great kindness to sinners. (Some of His greatest miracles was among sinners, and some of his greatest kindness to them.)
2. John had expected Christ to raise an army to whip the Romans, but Jesus spent His time preaching and performing miracles.
3. John began to wonder, “Was I wrong? Is it possible I have identified the wrong man?”

D. John had to find out.

1. John waited for some of his disciples to visit him in the prison.
2. He sent two of them to Jesus to inquire: “Are you the Christ or is somebody else the Christ?”
3. John had not stopped believing in the Christ, but was confused about His identify.

II. Jesus' answer to John, verse 4-5.

A. Jesus did not answer “Yes” or “No”. (He could not say “No” and tell the truth. He could not say “Yes” and be convincing. An impostor could say “Yes.” Jesus said “Go tell John the works that I do.”)

B. The miracles that Jesus was doing showed Him to be the Christ.

1. Speaking to the winds and waves of a storm and having them obey proves something. (Supernatural power)
2. By healing the palsied man He proved that He has the power to forgive sin.
3. By raising the dead He proved that He has power over the grave.

C. The specific things which Jesus named proved that He was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of the Christ.

1. Jesus said, “Go tell John that the blind receive their sight.” (This was fulfillment of Isaiah 35:5.)

2. Jesus said, "Go tell John that the lame walk." (This was a fulfillment of Isaiah 35:6.)
 3. Jesus said, "Go tell John that the lepers are cleansed." (Lepers were required to cry out "unclean, unclean." But Jesus healed the Lepers in fulfillment of Ezekiel 36:29.)
 4. Jesus said, "Go tell John that the deaf hear." (This is the fulfillment of Isaiah 35:5.)
 5. Jesus said, "Go tell John that the dead are raised." (This was in partial fulfillment of Daniel 12:2.)
 6. Jesus said, "Go tell John that the poor have the gospel preached to them." (This was in fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1.)
- D. John was familiar with the prophecies and thus it was a question of whether or not he would believe them.
- E. We can be sure that the question was answered to the full satisfaction of John.

III. Similar questions today.

A. The questions may come in many forms:

1. Is Jesus really the Christ?
2. If I trust in Him is He really able to keep my soul out of hell?
3. I trusted Him to save me many years ago. How can I be sure that He did?
4. Did Jesus really call me to preach? If so then why do I have all the trouble that I have? Why has He not delivered me from it?

B. Let me suggest three things:

1. Ask Him. That is what John did.
2. Look to the miracles. (He has the power to forgive sin and the power to raise the dead.)
3. Listen to the promises of scripture: I Timothy 1:15; Romans 10:13; Acts 16:31; John 5:24; John 6:37.

Conclusion:

1. Do not feel embarrassed or ashamed that you have had doubts.
2. But do not keep on living with your doubts; Level with God and find out the answer.
3. Believe the promises of God and trust Jesus today.

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