

Do You Doubt?

Matthew 11: 1-6. (P. 969 in the Pew Bible)

1. No matter how great you are in the kingdom of God, you may have doubts.

Matthew 11:1 – 3 When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. 2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

a. When we have doubts, we must not deny them, but we must take them to the Lord and to our partners in the faith, as John did.

b. Why did John doubt?

c. Why do you doubt?

- Sometimes we are emotionally overwhelmed by circumstances
- Sometimes we have irrational thoughts.
- Sometimes the love of our sin conveniently fuels our doubts.
- Sometimes we engage in good faith intellectual wrestling.

2. Jesus is merciful to you in your doubts.

Matthew 11:4 – 6 And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 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. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

a. Jesus is merciful to you in your doubt, and you should be merciful to those who doubt. Talk it over with them in love.

Jude 22 And have mercy on those who doubt...

Matthew 7:8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

b. Using the word of God, point yourself and others to the revelation of Jesus Christ, again and again.

Isaiah 35:4-6 Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

c. Guard your heart. Be careful not to be “scandalized” by Jesus.

Isaiah 8:14 And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Matthew 13:57 And they took offense at him...

Romans 9:33 as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

In preparation for this message Pastor John is grateful for the insights of Ligon Duncan, Dan Doriani, Adrian Diehlmann, and Scott Harris.

