



INTRODUCTION

Is God's silence a sign of His absence? Or does it mean something else? In this message, we read the story of a man Jesus said was the greatest who ever lived. And yet, even this man struggled with God's inattentiveness. The message Jesus sends him in the middle of his doubt contains a reassurance for us 2,000 years later.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when God seemed inattentive to your circumstances. Did it rattle your faith?
2. Why is it difficult for us to trust God during difficult times?
3. Read **Matthew 11:2-6, 14:6-12**. How does the fact that Jesus didn't rescue John the Baptist from imprisonment and death challenge your assumptions about God's priorities?
4. **Matthew 11:6** implies that God may do or allow things that make it difficult to continue believing in him. Has your faith ever been challenged by your circumstances? Explain.
5. Read **Philippians 2:8-11**. How could this passage strengthen your faith during challenging seasons of life?

MOVING FORWARD

Your personal circumstances do not necessarily coincide with God's feelings about you. God's apparent inactivity in your life is not a reflection of his activity in the world. If God currently feels inattentive, look back at what God has done for you, and out at his activity in the world around you.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead." 2 Corinthians 1:8b-9