



“The Reassurance of the King”
Matthew 11:1–19
The Commission of the King

Introduction:

Three ways we can be reassured by the King...

1. The King reassures us by addressing our doubts

Matthew 11:1–6 – “When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He departed from there to teach and preach in their cities. Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, ‘Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and report to John what you hear and see: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.’”

Matthew 10:1 – “Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”

We have God’s Word to guide us when God’s will and God’s plan for our lives is incomplete.

2 Corinthians 5:7 – “we walk by faith, not by sight”

1 John 3:2b – “...it has not appeared yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.”

Romans 12:2 – “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

How did you expect your life to unfold?

Romans 8:28 – “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

For today, Jesus’ message is God’s love, mercy, and patience.

2 Peter 3:9 – “[The Lord] is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

2. The King reassures us by defining greatness

Matthew 11:7-15 – “As these men were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces! But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’ Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.’”

The coming of John the Baptist was foretold.

Malachi 3:1a – “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me.”

The greatness of John the Baptist is seen in his humility and His desire to exalt Christ.

John 3:30 – “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

John 1:27 – “It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

For John, clothing and food was simply a necessity of life, nothing more.

Matthew 3:4 – “Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.”

3. Jesus says, “The harvest is plentiful and the workers are few” (v.35–38)

Matthew 11:16–19 – “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces, who call out to the other children. and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

1 Corinthians 2:2 – “I am determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”

Matthew 16:21 – “From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.”

Everything John the Baptist and Jesus said is true. Believe it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever had doubts about Christianity? If so, what were they? Did you seek help?
2. When John had doubts about Jesus, what did he do (Matthew 11:2–3)? How can we do the same?
3. How is greatness defined in our culture today? How does Jesus define greatness?
4. John proclaimed truth without compromise (Matthew 11:7). What can we learn from this?
5. How are we greater than John the Baptist (Matthew 11:11b) today?
6. You can doubt the truth of the gospel, but does that make it any less true (Matthew 11:19b)?