

KINGDOM COME

– 16 –

Disappointed & Faithful

All Bible verses are in the *English Standard Version (ESV)* unless otherwise indicated

Matthew 11:1-3 1 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?”

- Matthew 3 John Baptizes Jesus.
- There was one coming after him was far greater than he was.
- “Behold the Lamb of God.” (John 1:29)
- He saw the Spirit of God descend on Jesus at the baptism.

- He calls him the “Son of God”
- John was one of the most significant figures in the Gospel story
- His birth was foretold like Jesus’
- Jesus’ cousin
- He was a prophet sent by God to prepare the way for the coming Messiah.
- Now he is in prison and struggling
- It’s possible to be faithful and still struggle

Matthew 11:4-6 4 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.”

- Jesus responds by quoting various verses of Isaiah’s prophecies (Isa. 29:18-19, 35:5-6, 61:1)
- Mark 6 tells us that Herod had heard of Jesus and his miracles
- John was in prison because King Herod married his brother’s wife Herodias and John told him it was unlawful because it was considered adultery and incest under Jewish law

- Herod silenced him in prison

Matthew 11:7-11 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ 11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- Jesus publicly honors John
- His struggle didn't disqualify him or erase his calling
- Among men born to women, John is the greatest. But in the kingdom of heaven, even the least is greater than he is.
- This is pointing to salvation and the new covenant in the blood of Jesus.

Matthew 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

- Acknowledging opposition

Matthew 11:13-15 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

- Jesus identifies John as the Elijah figure
- The promised forerunner
- The fulfillment of prophecy

Matthew 11:16-19 16 “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, 17 “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

- God’s wisdom & purposes don’t need approval
- They prove themselves with time

- You can question and still be faithful
- You can struggle and still be obedient
- Give God the space to show you who He is

Extra reading about John the Baptist:

- Luke 3:1-22
- Mark 1
- Mark 6:14-29
- John 1:19-34
- Matthew 3
- Matthew 11:1-19
- Matthew 14:1-12