



Sermon Discussion Questions - July 17 & 19, 2026

Matthew Part 3: Week 11

Matthew 11:2-19

Ice Breaker: *Jesus often surprised people—even faithful followers like John the Baptist—because He didn't always meet their expectations.*

- **Q1:** Think of a time you were really looking forward to something, but it turned out very differently than you expected. What happened?

Read Matthew 11:2-19 together. In this passage, Jesus shows that many people struggled to accept Him because He wasn't the kind of Messiah they anticipated.

- **Q2:** What expectations do you think John the Baptist and others had about the Messiah? How was Jesus different from what they were expecting?

John was sitting in prison, wrestling with doubts because Jesus wasn't acting the way he thought the Messiah should.

- **Q3:** What are some ways people today create a version of Jesus that fits their own agenda instead of accepting who He really is?
- **Q4:** Have you ever struggled with disappointment or doubts because God wasn't working the way you expected? How did you deal with that?

Jesus tells the crowds, "Blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

- **Q5: What influences—like culture, social media, personal experiences, or preferences—can shape the way we think about Jesus? How can we make sure Scripture has the final word?**
- **Q6: If someone had a distorted picture of Jesus or the gospel, how would you help them see that the real Jesus is even better than their unmet expectations?**

Jesus points John back to the Scriptures, showing that He fulfills what the Law and the Prophets promised.

- **Q7: How can studying the Old Testament—and seeing how Jesus fulfills its promises—strengthen your confidence that He truly is the Messiah?**
- **Q8: How does knowing Jesus is the promised Messiah change the way you trust Him during confusing or disappointing seasons?**

Many people rejected Jesus not because He failed to be the Messiah, but because their expectations didn't align with God's promises.

- **Q9: As you think about your own life, where might Jesus be asking you to trust Him today—even if His plan looks different from what you expected?**

Take a few minutes to encourage each other, and spend some time in prayer together!