

# Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 12/14/25

## Summary

This sermon explored the story of John the Baptist questioning Jesus' identity while imprisoned, despite previously being the one who pointed others to Christ. Pastor Mark examined how John went from recognizing Jesus as the Messiah from the womb, baptizing Him, and declaring Him the Lamb of God, to sending disciples to ask if Jesus was truly the Christ or if they should look for someone else. The central message was that Jesus wasn't meeting John's expectations of what the Messiah should be - particularly in terms of judgment and vindication. Jesus responded by listing His works of healing and ministry, but notably omitted setting prisoners free, which was most relevant to John's situation. The sermon concluded that Jesus not meeting our expectations doesn't make Him any less the Christ He truly is.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this small group, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be honest about our own expectations and disappointments, and give us the courage to examine how we sometimes want You to be different than who You truly are. Lord, prepare our hearts to receive Your truth, even when it challenges our preconceptions. May Your Holy Spirit guide our

discussion and draw us closer to the Christ who is, not the Christ we might want Him to be. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## **Ice Breaker**

What's one thing you were really excited about as a child that turned out to be different than you expected when you actually experienced it?

## **Key Verses**

Matthew 11:2-6

Matthew 11:7-11

Isaiah 35:3-10

Luke 1:13-17

## **Questions**

1. Why do you think John the Baptist, who had such clear confirmation of Jesus' identity, began to doubt while in prison?
2. How do you think John's expectations of what the Messiah would do differed from what Jesus was actually doing?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says 'blessed is the one who is not offended by me'? How might people be offended by Jesus today?
4. Can you think of a time when God didn't meet your expectations? How did you handle that disappointment?

5. How do our cultural or personal expectations of what God should do sometimes conflict with who God actually is?
6. What are some ways we might be looking for 'someone else' instead of accepting the Christ who is?
7. How can we learn to embrace the Christ who is rather than the Christ we want Him to be?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one expectation you have of God that may not align with who He truly is. Spend time in prayer asking God to help you release that expectation and embrace Him as He reveals Himself in Scripture. Consider journaling about this process and how it changes your relationship with Him.

## **Key Takeaways**

- Even the most faithful believers can experience doubt when God doesn't meet their expectations.
- Jesus not meeting our expectations doesn't make Him any less the Christ He truly is.
- God's ways and timing are often different from what we anticipate or desire.

- We are blessed when we don't fall away from faith because Jesus doesn't match our preconceptions.
- Our job as followers is to know the Christ who is, not the Christ we want Him to be.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being exactly who You are - the Christ who came in humility, who serves rather than demands to be served, who loves unconditionally even when we don't understand Your ways. Help us to release our expectations and embrace You as You truly are. When we face seasons of doubt or disappointment, remind us that You are still the same yesterday, today, and forever. Give us faith to trust in Your perfect timing and Your perfect plan, even when we can't see the full picture. May we be people who point others to the Christ who is, just as John the Baptist did, even in our moments of questioning. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.