



The ABCs of Wrestling with Doubt Matthew 11:1-6

Accept the normalcy of doubts.

Verses 1-3:

Text Message:

- Here John the Baptizer, the very forerunner of Israel's promised Messiah, is facing a crisis of doubt.
- John had boldly proclaimed [See John 1:29-37].
- What John proclaimed in his Gospel in 1:29-37 has now given way to the doubt of "Are

you the one?” in Matthew 11:3.

- For John, doubt has crept in through unmet expectations:

“His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Matthew 3:12

- In other words, the Jesus John prophesied about and the Jesus he was hearing about didn't add up!
- Note: John was not mistaken about his expectations, but simply the timing of his expectations.
- Look down to Matthew 11:11 of Jesus' words of John.
- The “no one great” one is in a season of doubt, which is a normal part of being a person of faith in God/Christ!
- Many of those commended for their faith in Hebrews 11 had their moments of doubt (Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Gideon).

Be willing to explore your doubts.

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?”

Text Message:

- To his credit and as our example, John in doubt does two critical things in wrestling with doubt:
 - 1) He enlisted the help he needed.
 - 2) He explored his doubts.
- However, his willingness to do these things didn't equate to a free “Get out of Jail” card. He would later be beheaded.
- Being willing to explore our doubts isn't a guarantee to, “I wrestled with my doubts, and it all worked out just like I wanted it to.”
- What it does mean is that in Christ, there is a bigger picture enfolding that what we can now see, feel and here:
 - 1) Present sufferings are nothing when compared to the future glory awaiting us (Romans 8:18).

- 2) Patience is being worked in us (Romans 8:25).
- 3) The Holy Spirit helps us here and now (Romans 8:26).
- 4) All things work together for good (Romans 8:28).
- 5) God is for us (Romans 8:31).
- 6) We are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).
- 7) We cannot be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

Commit to a life of faith.

Verses 4-6:

Text Message:

- The “rest of the story” to John’s doubt is telling, as we notice what is absent from it:

- 1) A direct answer to his doubt and question.

WHY: John, like each of us, must walk by faith.

- 2) John’s response to Jesus’ answer- was

John satisfied?

- In this story is also our story when facing doubt- *Will we walk by faith even when the answers don't satisfy us?*

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