

July 21<sup>st</sup> Matthew 11:1-10

What Should we Expect?

Introductory discussion:

What is it we “follow” most?

When we choose to follow something or someone is there a cost?

Do we keep following something regardless of the cost?

**Mat 11:1-10 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?” (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.” (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.’**

John’s imprisonment: Herod Antipas of Galilee had paid a visit to his brother in Rome. During that visit he seduced his brother’s wife. He came home again, dismissed his own wife, and married the sister-in-law whom he had lured away from her husband. Publicly and sternly John rebuked Herod. It was never safe to rebuke an eastern despot and Herod took his revenge; John was thrown into the dungeons of the fortress of Machaerus in the mountains near the Dead Sea.

**(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?”**

Previously John had expressed that Jesus was the true Messiah. The promised one. Now we see him seemingly questioning this belief.

Why might John ask this question?

Might we do the same thing in a similar situation?

**(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.”**

Does this answer John’s question?

How does this answer the question?

Why doesn’t Jesus provide a more direct “YES/NO” answer?

**Isa 61:1-2** The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; (2) to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

**Isa 26:19** Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

**Isa 35:5-6** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; (6) then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

What do you think verse 6 is saying? (Note: The NIV translation says "Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.")

Is this an encouragement for John?

Is this an encouragement for the rest of us?

**(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.**

Jesus turns the discussion now to John, having established who He was.

Why does he ask the question "What did you go out to see?" three times?

What is the "reed shaken by the wind?"

What is the reference to "soft clothing" about?

What is the significance of this reference to the prophets?

In all three of these questions is there any commonality?

How do these references to John apply to Christians today?

**(10) This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."**

How do we prepare the way for Jesus today?

Would we be "offended" By Jesus?

How can we use John's life to show us what we should expect as followers/ proclaimers of Christ?