

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: The Unfortunate Outcome of John the Baptist

Week 2: When the Faithful Start to Question

Matthew 11:1–15.

Doubt doesn't disqualify you — God can use it to deepen you.

This is not a crisis of character. This is a *crisis of expectation*. John collided with what he expected God to do & what God was actually doing.

John sends his disciples with one question: *Are you the one?*

He is asking a deeply personal one: *Did I get it right? Was it You all along? Because if it was—why am I here?*

There is a crucial difference between doubt that brings us to Jesus & doubt that drives us away from Him.

Isaiah 35:5–6; 61:1.

Jesus: *"Don't focus on what I haven't done yet—look at what I AM doing."*

Matthew 11:6.

"Stumble" is the Greek *skandalizō* — from which we get "scandal."

Blessed is the one who does NOT find my way of working to be a scandal, a stumbling block, an offense.

The blessing is in not being offended by how I choose to work.

When God's ways confuse us, the answer isn't to demand our way. It's to look at what He is *actually* doing.

The response Jesus invites is not denial—it's *looking*.

Matthew 11:11.

Truth: the kingdom of God does not advance in this world unopposed.

Opposition is not evidence that the kingdom has failed. It is evidence that the kingdom is advancing.

Matthew 11:15.

- 1) Doubt is not the opposite of faith—it is the terrain through which faith grows.
- 2) Jesus does not shame questioners—He dignifies them with answers. (Hebrews 4:16).
- 3) Expectations can become idols. When our picture of how God *should* work becomes more important to us than God Himself, we have made an idol of our expectations.
- 4) The greatest in God's kingdom are not those who never doubted, but those who brought their doubt to the right Person.

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