

Message Notes

Dealing with Doubt

Gospel of Matthew, Part 40

Matthew 11:1-15

Message Outline

Dealing with Doubt

Gospel of Matthew, Part 40

Matthew 11:1-15 March 13, 2005

I. Who experiences Doubt?

- A. Even John, who was the forerunner to the Messiah (Mt. 3:3)
- B. Even John, who baptized the Messiah (Mt. 3:13-17)
- C. Even John, who first identified the Messiah (Jn. 1:29)
- D. Even John, who saw that the Messiah must increase (Jn. 3:30)
- E. Even John, who was more than a prophet (Mt. 11:9)
- F. Even Us!

II. What causes Doubt?

- A. Difficult Circumstances
- B. Unfulfilled Expectations
- C. Incomplete Revelation
- D. Worldly Influence

III. How do we deal with Doubt?

- A. Go to your spiritual community (11:2)
- B. Go get your questions answered (11:3)
- C. Go to the Lord (11:3)
- D. Go to the Word (11:4)

IV. How does Jesus deal with Doubters?

- A. He confirms His Word (11:4)
- B. He affirms our person (11:7-11)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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Matthew 11:1-15

1. Read Matthew 11:1-15 together. Also read Matthew 3:1-17 and John 1:29-34. What did John understand about Jesus? What did he expect in Jesus? Why did he doubt?
2. What were some of John's tough circumstances? Unfulfilled expectations? How was his revelation (knowledge of Scripture) incomplete?
3. In v. 2-3 how did John deal with his doubt? Did he deny it? Did he let it fester?
4. How did Jesus deal with John, the doubter? How does he confirm God's word to him? In which verse? How does he gently challenge him in v. 6? How does he affirm him and defend him against criticism? In which verses? Does Jesus harshly condemn John for his doubt?
5. **Bonus Questions:** What do you think verse 11 means? What does verse 12 mean? (Lots of scholarly debate surrounding these two verses. Context is really important.)

Growth Group Application Questions

Dealing with Doubt

Gospel of Matthew, Part 40

Matthew 11:1-15 March 13, 2005

1. Personally, what grabbed you in this passage? What spoke to your heart or challenged your faith?
2. Why is doubt such a scary thing to face and share in a Christian community? When we don't face our doubts, how do we deal with them?
3. Do you ever experience seasons of doubt? How have you dealt with your own doubt in the past? Of the four causes of doubt we noted, what has been the biggest cause of doubt in your life?
4. If someone came to you and shared their own doubts, in light of this passage, how would you respond? How would you encourage them? How would you confirm God's Word and affirm their person? (Try role playing!)
5. How do we create a church/spiritual community where it is safe to express and share our doubts? What does a church like this look like? What are its characteristics and features? Is this Growth Group a place where you could share your doubts?