

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, October 2, 2022**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 68. Are You the One? – Matthew 11:1-6**

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Introduction: Matthew chapters 11 through 13 demonstrate a notable shift in the focus of Jesus' ministry. As He sends the disciples out to publicly proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom, confirmed with powerful signs and wonders – healing, casting out demons, and even raising the dead – we see an immediate reaction to the gospel as it is preached. In Matthew 11:1-19 we learn that even John the Baptist is having doubts. In 11:20-30 the people would not believe and multitudes began to abandon Him. In chapter 12, the religious leaders formally begin to oppose Jesus and are plotting to kill Him. Moving forward after this, Jesus teaches His disciples plainly, but will only speak to the crowds in parables.

- I. Jesus Practices What He Preaches – vs. 1
  - A. Teach and Preach – explain and proclaim
  - B. The Kingdom is Here! – Matt. 10:7
- II. John is a Prisoner – vs. 2-3
  - A. Denouncing Herod and His Sin – Matt. 14:1-5
  - B. Doubting Jesus
    1. He had heard about what Jesus was doing
      - a. Cut off from what was happening – CHS Quote #1
      - b. Heard but not seen – hearsay, not eye witness
    2. He was drained, like Elijah – 1 Kings 19:1-8
      - a. Great victories are often followed by serious doubt
      - b. Great Bible characters have doubted – Abraham, Moses, Elijah, David
    3. The picture is incomplete
      - a. John's expectations of Jesus as the Messiah were not being met
        - 1) What do we expect from God? – provision, prosperity, peace
        - 2) What does God expect from us? – love, faith, obedience
      - b. Where was the judgment and justice? – Matt. 3:11-12
        - 1) See Isaiah 35:5-6; 26:19; 29:18-19
        - 2) Compare Isa. 61:1-3 and Luke 4:18-19
        - 3) God's judgment will come, but today is the day of salvation and grace – John 3:16-21; 2 Cor. 6:2
      - c. Why was John still in prison – Isa. 61:1-3; Phil. 4:4-7, 11-13, 19
    4. "Are You the Expected One?" – Psalms 40:7; 118:26; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:7; 11:9
      - a. John wasn't questioning God's Word
      - b. John expected God's Word to be fulfilled
      - c. John's faith and expectations was being challenged
      - d. Doubt is not unbelief, it is weak belief – James 1:6; Eph. 4:14-15
        - 1) "O, ye of little faith" – Matt. 8:26; 28:16-17
        - 2) "I believe; help my unbelief" – Mark 9:24
- III. Jesus Assures John – vs. 4-5
  - A. What Are You Seeing?
    1. Be more than a disciple of John
    2. Be a witness to John
  - B. Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled
    1. The blind see
    2. The lame walk
    3. Lepers are cleansed
    4. The deaf hear

5. The dead are raised
  6. The poor have the gospel preached to them
- C. Blessed Are Those Who Do Not Stumble – Matt. 26:31-33
1. Endure to the end! – Matt. 10:22
  2. It's not over yet – John 16:1-4
  3. Who can keep up from stumbling? – Jude 1:24

## Quotes

CHS #1 – “John was in prison: he did not make a good caged bird – he of the wilderness and the river – and his faith began to flag.”

## Cross References

### Matthew 10:7

7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

### Matthew 14:1-5

14 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus<sup>2</sup> and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.”<sup>3</sup> For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife.<sup>4</sup> Because John had said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.”<sup>5</sup> And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

### 1 Kings 19:1-8

19 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.<sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.”<sup>3</sup> And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!”<sup>5</sup> Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise and eat.”<sup>6</sup> Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.<sup>7</sup> And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, “Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.”<sup>8</sup> So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

### Matthew 3:11-12

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>12</sup> His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

### **Isaiah 35:5-6**

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

### **Isaiah 26:19**

19 Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.

### **Isaiah 29:18-19**

18 In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. 19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.

### **Isaiah 61:1-3**

61 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, **And the day of vengeance of our God**; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

### **Luke 4:18-19**

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

### **John 3:16-21**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

### **2 Corinthians 6:2**

2 For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

### **Psalms 40:7**

7 Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me.

**Psalm 118:26**

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

**Matthew 3:11**

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**Mark 1:7**

7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

**Mark 11:9**

9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

**Philippians 4:4-7, 11-13, 19**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**James 1:6**

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

**Ephesians 4:14-15**

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

**Matthew 8:26**

26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

**Matthew 28:16-17**

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

**Mark 9:24**

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

**Matthew 26:31-33**

31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." 33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

**Matthew 10:22**

22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

**John 16:1-4**

16 "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. 3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. 4 But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. "And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

**Jude 24**

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.