

## **Lesson 3: Doubt and Unbelief (John the Baptist in Prison)**

Matthew 11:1-24; Isaiah 35:5-6

### **I. A FAITH THAT INCLUDES DOUBTS (1-11)**

**A. The Doubt of John (2)**—What do we do when Jesus isn't doing what we think He's supposed to be doing?

- 1. His Vision from God** (Mat 3:16; Jn 1:32-34)—at the baptism of Jesus
- 2. His View from Prison** (Jam 5:17)—isolated, physically weak & emotionally stressed
- 3. His Question of Christ** (3; Mk 9:24,)—offering out doubts to God is an act of faith

**B. The Reassurance of Jesus (3-5)**—How does Jesus answer our questions and fears?

- 1. The Certainty of Scripture** (Is 35:5-6; Isa 40:8; Mat 5:18)—divinely inspired, inerrant, authoritative, eternal
- 2. The Witness of Others** (4)—our vision is limited by our own perspective

**C. The Choice to Be Offended (6; Isa 55:8-9)**—You will not always understand; will you be *comforted* by Christ or *offended* by Him?

### **II. AN UNBELIEF THAT REFUSES FAITH (6, 12-20)**—

**A. Violent Suppression (12)**

- 1. The Kingdom of Heaven is a threat to the kingdoms of this world.**
- 2. They think they can stop the advance of God's kingdom by force.**

**B. Determined Dissatisfaction** (16-19)—disdainful superiority and implacable unbelief; refusal to accept no matter what

**C. Unrepentant Pride** (20)—unbelief is not objective; it has a *motive*—rebellion against Christ's authority

### III. **THE COMING OF JUDGMENT** (21-24)

**A. The Certainty of Judgment** (2 Cor 5:10)—All will stand before judgment seat of Christ

**B. The Calculation of Punishment** (Lk 12:47-48)

1. Repentance is necessary for salvation.
2. Anyone who repents will be forgiven.
3. Those with more spiritual light will be judged more severely.

***Jesus is the mercy and salvation of God for everyone who repents and believes:  
Apart from Him, there is no salvation.***