

# Doubt

Matthew 11:1

## Honest Doubts

- When John heard in prison
  - what Christ was doing
  - he sent...to ask him
- Are you the one who was come
  - or should we expect someone else?

## Honest Doubts

- after me will come one who is more powerful than I
    - He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire
      - winnowing fork in his hand
      - burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire
- Matt. 3

## Honest Doubts

- I need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?
  - ...John consented - Matt. 3
- I saw the Spirit come down...and remain on him
- I testify that this is the Son of God - John 1

## Honest Doubts

- When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison,
  - he returned to Galilee. - Matt. 4:12
- beginning of his ministry

## Encouragement

- report to John what you hear and see
  - blind receive sight
  - lame walk
  - leprosy...cured
  - deaf hear
  - dead raised
  - good news is preached to the poor

## Encouragement

- Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.
- Focus on what Christ is doing.

## Encouragement

- What did you go out into the desert to see?
  - a reed swayed by the wind?
  - a man dressed in fine clothes?
    - “soft”

## Encouragement

- John was not weak or easily shaken.
- John was not soft.

## Encouragement

- He was a great prophet.
  - prepare the way of the Lord
  - no man greater
  - spirit and power of Elijah

## Encouragement

- Yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
  - The blessings of the new age:
    - Once-and-for-all forgiveness
    - Spirit-filled life
    - greater access to God’s presence

## Warnings

- Danger
  - the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing
    - forceful men lay hold of it
  - “The kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence,
    - and violent people have been raiding it.”

## Warnings

- Disapproval
  - We played the flute...you did not dance
  - We sang a dirge...you did not mourn
- John...Son of Man

## Warnings

- Unbelief
  - Woe to Korazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum
    - saw many miracles
      - Tyre, Sidon, Sodom would have repented
    - remained in unbelief
    - will be judged harshly

## Doubt

- You will encounter danger, disapproval, and unbelief.
- Be honest about your doubts.
- Focus on the work of Christ.
- Trust in him for salvation.