

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 great 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.