

## Matthew 11:2-19

### Even John the Baptist Had Bad Moments

Unrealistic Expectations Will Trip Up Anybody...If We Get into the Same Mindset as John the Baptist Has Here: It Will Guarantee Us an Unsatisfying Life Experience

#### John Asks Jesus an Easily Misunderstood Question v2-3

Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples and said to Him are You the Expected One or shall we look for someone else?

John is NOT questioning the Person of Jesus....But His Program-the Timing/Tone of His Ministry Matthew 11:2-3 // Mary's Statement in John 2 // Frustrated FB Coach

John the Baptist in Matthew 11: a great person with a gross perspective-he was a victim of his own stinkin' thinkin' (unbiblical/unrealistic expectations)

1: He Put a Time Limit on God/His Promises in Scripture about Christ

Namely: The Messiah the LION Will Bring Judgment on God's Enemies (Psalm 2/Zechariah 12)

2: He Failed to Consider ALL of God's Promises in Scripture about Christ

Namely: He Did Not Correlate the LAMB Promises (Isa 53) with the LION Promises (Psalm 110)

**Human Beings (including John the Baptist, you and me) never have enough information to legitimately 2<sup>nd</sup> guess (doubt, pout and drop out) God**

No matter how spiritual you are when you get cut you will bleed, when you suffer loss you will grieve and when you put time limits on God and/or fail to correlate related Scriptures you will plead..."The LORD has done me wrong!"

#### Jesus Understands and Responds to John's Question v4-6

Jesus answered and said to them, go and report to John what you hear and see

1: blind receive sight, lame walk, lepers cleansed, deaf hear, dead are raised

These physical Messianic miracles designed to reinforce/validate the MAIN THING:

2: the poor (in spirit) have the Gospel preached to them

**The Old Testament Teaches the Christ Would Come as a Servant/Lamb of God Before He Would Come Back as the Sovereign/Lion of the Tribe of Judah**

// Justice isn't pretty, but God's justice is always preceded by God's grace

Then the Lord concludes His answer: blessed is the one who does not take offense at Me.

"take offense" = 2<sup>nd</sup> guessing/getting mad at God because we don't like His timing/tone...

...and this is rooted in unbiblical/unrealistic expectations that we sometimes cling to ourselves.

**Asaph (Psalm 73): classic example of how a believer with unbiblical/unrealistic expectations can move past being mad at God:** When my heart was embittered and I was angry with You LORD, I was foolish, like a dumb animal biting the hand that feeds it! But I was and still am connected to You because You have taken hold of my right hand and You never let go. Now I am actively resting in this fact: You will guide me with the counsel of Your Word all the days of my life and then receive me to glory. After all Whom have I in Heaven *but You*? And besides You, I need nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart will fail eventually/my life on Earth will end, but You O God give me strength day by day and will provide everything I need forever! Those who are far from You (who I had envied when I was angry with You) will perish; You punish all those who refuse to trust in You/receive Your salvation. But as for me, Your nearness is the best thing and the core of my life. No matter what happens during this life, I will trust in You-the Lord GOD as my refuge. Instead of questioning You in times of great stress, I will tell others of Your greatness.

### **Jesus Then Praises John and His Ministry v7-15**

As these men were going *away*, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: what did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' palaces! But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written [in Malachi 3:1]: Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You. **Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist!** Yet the one who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence and violent men take it by force. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept *it*, John himself is Elijah [Malachi 4:5] who was to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

**In the same way that an old but sometimes profound TBF Pastor once said: the most important church softball game isn't as important as the least important church prayer meeting....even the greatest person of the OT era (JTB) isn't as great/greatly blessed as the least productive NT/Church Age believer (JDTB).**

### **Finally Jesus Critiques His Generation-Because They Saw John and Jesus But Very Few of Them Believed in Jesus v16-19**

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other *children* and say we played the flute for you and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn. John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say He has a demon! The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners! Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.

**Regardless of the personality or outward appearance of God's messengers: the vast majority of people will willfully refuse God's overtures of Common Grace and even claim to have "good reasons" for doing so...but in reality these are only illegitimate excuses.**

### **What Do We See in Matthew 11:2-18?**

Even John the Baptist Who Was Only the Greatest Person Who Had Ever Lived Up to That Point in Human History Had Bad Moments!

IOWs: Unrealistic Expectations about Life on Earth Will Demoralize Anybody So:  
That's a Really Good Way to Guarantee Anyone a Bad Life Experience

John the Baptist in Matthew 11 = a Great Person in a Gross State of Mind...and It Was His Own Fault! He Was a Victim of Stinkin' Thinkin' (Unbiblical/Unrealistic Expectations)

#### Same Song Second Verse

Moving from the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century AD (from JTB to JDTB...and JDTTBFer):  
Unbiblical/unrealistic expectations about God, other people and reality in a fallen world will  
GUARANTEE anyone of us an unsatisfying life experience on Earth because we will constantly  
be dealing with self-caused emotional pain and more really bad stuff!

The progression works like this:

**1: Unfulfilled Expectations** Even If They Are Unbiblical/Unrealistic

Leads to Emotional Pain/Hurt

**2: Emotional Pain/Hurt Held Onto**

Leads to Anger (Where This Downward Spiral SHOULD Stop)

**3: Anger Held Onto**

Leads to Bitterness

**4: Bitterness Held Onto**

Leads to Hostility (see Asaph in Psalm 73:1-16)

### **Take This To Heart**

Trying to Hurry, Hinder, Supervise and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> Guess God-What He Does/Doesn't Do; How and When He Does or Doesn't Do It: While Very Tempting at Times is Always a Very Bad Idea and Doesn't Work! While Other People Around Us Might Do So, God Simply Does Not Work to Enable His People to Have Unbiblical/Unrealistic Expectations!

So: While We Strive in Ourselves/Our Christian Walk and Seek in Others THE IDEAL...Until We Get To Heaven We Must Live with THE REAL. Under the SUN: Everything We Can See is Less Than Perfect, Less Than Complete and All of It is Only Temporary.

**The Learning is for Living: Apply This to Everything and Everybody  
In Your Life Under the Sun/as You Walk with the Son:**

Children/Teenagers.....Parents AND Parents....Children/Teenagers

Students.....Teachers AND Teachers.....Students

Workers...Supervisors AND Supervisors...Workers

**Short, Significant, Supplemental But Strongly Suggested Reading: Proverbs 14:4**