



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 11
- Luke 4:15-24
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Malachi 3:1-5

PILLOWS OF DOUBT

- Knowing Y'shua
- Character
- Prophetic Facts
- Conclusion

How long have you identified yourself as a believer, a child of God, a Christian? One month? One Year? Five years? Or, five minutes? I don't know that it really matters, because regardless of how long, undoubtedly you have had doubts. Someone or something, people and circumstances, have challenged your belief system—rattled your faith.

In Scripture, we see the very same doubts that show up in our own lives working even in the lives of the most steadfast of Bible characters. These doubts are often fueled by gossip or someone's personal opinion. What a shame it is to be influenced by another's wrong assessments, false reports or any form of gossip, when likely they gained their information from mostly erroneous assumptions, baseless allegations, and downtrodden misrepresentations. Taking

cues from someone living in a world of unmet expectations, a person carrying their own bag of doubts, is unwise. And you can be sure they feel they are accurately portraying truth and reporting facts, when in reality they are just passing on bad information.

Today we witness the solid and steadfast John the Baptist, very likely acting on information that fluffed up pillows of doubt, causing him to question the very thing he had been preaching. The prophet sent by Yahweh to make the crooked paths straight—raised up to prepare the way for the King of kings and Lord of lords, had himself become rattled.

We often read today's passage and what immediately catches our attention is that John has sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus if He is really the One, or should he look for another? Yes, John, the same John who proclaimed, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" was now asking, "Are you really the Lamb of God?" Bizarre, right? Yet, it happens all too often.

If we assess John's question, we might come to a few different conclusions. One is that John was changing course on Jesus altogether; He's not the coming Messiah. Another could be that he was just having some "doubts" based on frustration, or impatience, or discomfort. He was, after all, locked up in a nasty prison. It is also possible that he had hopes, as most Jews at the time, that the Messiah would be a powerful military figure, arriving to free Israel

from their oppressive captors. Or, maybe he was simply afraid that his days were numbered, and he was just confirming that his certain death was for the right reason.

Setting aside the need to know exactly why, we must still conclude John doubted Jesus. It is also very likely he didn't get there on his own. He certainly had plenty of help from his own disciples who had their own erroneous conclusions that the coming Messiah would be a "warrior and reigning king." Their unmet expectations and wrong assumptions caused them to pass on bad information, casting pillows of doubt over John, not the best type on which to lay his imprisoned head, one soon to be separated from his shoulders.

Sadly enough, John did not get to see the fruits of his own ministry. And by and large, that too forms the bedrock of our very own pillows of doubt. Not tasting the fruit of your labor, or seeing an immediate return on your investment into the Kingdom of God, can be very destabilizing to your faith. Does this happen to you? Are you resting your head on such pillows—pillows of doubt? And worse yet, are those doubts being fueled by the baggage and bad information from fellow believers?

Today's section of scripture is packed with personal and prophetic subject matter. Jesus, as always, is so masterful at bringing His disciples to the place where they recognize the correct answer

to the one question He asks that matters most to every human;
“Who do YOU say that I am?”

PROPHETIC SEED:

When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. Now **when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ**, he sent word by his disciples Matthew 11:1-2 ESV

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the **one who doubts** is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. James 1:6 ESV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

And Jesus answered them, **“Go and tell John what you hear and see:** the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And **blessed is the one who is not offended by me.**” Matthew 11:5-6 ESV

And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. Jesus Rejected at Nazareth. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll

and found the place where it was written, ***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*** And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

And he began to say to them, ***“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*** And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph's son?” And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’” And he said, ***“Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.”*** Luke 4:15-24 ESV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week we delved into the Second of Matthew's five discourses—The Mission Discourse in [Practicum](#). Y'shua instructed and then sent out His twelve apostles to preach that the kingdom of heaven is at hand and to duplicate what He was doing, to heal the

sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. Much like the book of Exodus, they were leaving one place and being sent on a journey to another, and they must engage with the supernatural for their provision and protection! The journey will test them and prepare them to enter a “new land,” in this case, the Kingdom of Heaven.

Y’shua gave guidelines for the mission and informed His disciples that this calling comes with persecution from all sides: from other Jews, from Gentiles, and even from their own family members. A huge part of the journey involves trust. They must trust God for provision, protection and even for the very words they will speak in the most difficult circumstances. It feels like what Israel had to do as they entered the wilderness. They had to learn to trust in the supernatural if they were to survive their journey. And no matter what happens, these now “apostles” (sent ones) were encouraged to be bold! Preach from the rooftops and then watch God do everything else.

This week we begin with John’s most famous question, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Of course, as always, Y’shua answers question by pointing to the obvious truth manifesting all around them. Prophecies are coming to life in their midst, of course He’s the One!

Y'shua uses that teaching opportunity to affirm John's role as the forerunner and to instruct all those with ears to hear about his ministry connection to Elijah. It will take spiritual violence for the kingdom to manifest and many will miss the opportunity. But fear not, it's all working according to the Father's will.

A stiff rebuke follows for all those living in the midst of the miracles and prophetic revelation, and yet who also refuse to acknowledge it. They have so overly complicated things and if they just had more childlike innocence they would experience the true rest being offered to them.

Matthew 11

John's Famous Question

1. The disciples were just released to their first apostolic mission and Y'shua continued ministering in the Galilee region.
2. John the Baptizer (who had been arrested by Herod) has two of his disciples question if Y'shua is actually the Messiah: "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"
 - (a) Y'shua tells them to report back to him all the miracles that have recently occurred, thus fulfilling prophecy. In other words, "Yes!"
 - (b) Y'shua then identifies John's ministry as the forerunner wilderness prophet ("more than a prophet") and connects it

to His as the Messiah. (We leaned all about John when we studied Matthew 3-4. See: [Time Never Fails](#)).

- (c) John the Baptist is the greatest ever of all men in history leading up to the coming of the Messiah.
 - (d) But all who have access to the kingdom of heaven (Christ in you!) are greater than he.
3. Y'shua reveals man's role in ushering in the kingdom. It will take [Spiritual Violence](#)! And then He links John to a long line of prophets, all pointing toward John as THE inflection point in history for this Spiritual Violence.
- (a) John carried the Spirit and Power of Elijah—See Luke 1:17. Again I refer to: [Time Never Fails](#).
 - (b) Elijah must come before Y'shua's first coming and again before His second coming and John fulfilled that role in the Spirit and Power of Elijah at the first coming, if you are willing to hear it!
 - (c) And as expected—like children who don't understand adult things, most of this generation will not understand this moment in history.
 - (d) They ridiculed John for his lifestyle and message and they will also ridicule the Messiah for His lifestyle and message, which are in many ways the opposite of John's.

- (e) In other words, they are so obstinate that they can't see the truth no matter how it shows up!

Impenitent Cities (and People)

4. Then Y'shua began to rebuke all the recent cities in which He preached and performed miracles.
 - (a) They had witnessed the truth that He was the coming Messiah, the ONE who they were were waiting for, and still they would did not repent!
 - (b) Warning...it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for them.

Truth Staring You in the Face

5. Why are so many people missing it?
 - (a) They are too smart for their own good.
 - (b) They have so overly complicated things that they cannot see the truth staring at them in the face.
 - (c) If they were innocent and less complicated, like children, they would have recognized it.
 - (d) And Y'shua knows that it is all going down just as His Father ordained.
 - (e) Everything happens according to His will alone!
6. The chapter ends with words from our blessed Savior that will draw all those with ears to hear:

- (a) *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*
Matthew 11:28-30

KNOWING Y'SHUA

1. The Groundwork

A. Sent Ones

(1) This was their assignment...

- (a) In order to properly understand Matthew 11, we need to begin by understanding what our Savior told His disciples to do when He sent them out to perform the work of the ministry.

1. ***These twelve Jesus sent out***, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ***Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.*** You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for

the laborer deserves his food. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. As you enter the house, greet it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Matthew 10:5-15 ESV

- (2) This is from where we are coming...
 - (a) Laying out this groundwork is important simply because Matthew 11 kicks off with these words...
 1. ***When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples***, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. Matthew 11:1 ESV
 - a) Immediately after that, John the Baptist's disciples ran off to "gossip" about what they just heard.
 - b) It is evident that this was the case by the interaction that ensued between John's disciples and Jesus in the following verses of the chapter.

- c) One thing should be crystal clear for us today. Our assumptions regarding the work that Jesus “should” be doing on earth today, have absolutely nothing to do with the work HE IS ACTUALLY DOING, unless it is consistent with the Holy Scriptures!

B. Who He is should be that men say that He is...

(1) Know the Jesus you see in Scriptures...

(a) Identifiers

1. **Son of a Virgin**—John the Baptist was aware of prophecies that the coming Messiah was going to fulfill. Granted, he did not get to see the fulfillment of several, such as, riding in on the donkey, His death through crucifixion, casting lots for His garments, burial and resurrection (just to name a few), but he most definitely knew of His virgin birth.
2. **His healing ministry**—John the Baptist was most definitely aware of the prophecies from Isaiah 61 which is to where Jesus referred them when he sent the two disciples back with the answer to question his “Are You the One?”
3. Even though John seemed to have known this, he then doubted that Jesus was the one. Why? Because John had been waiting on someone who was going to

establish a different earthly kingdom than what Jesus was preaching.

4. In his assessment and those who came to gossip in his ear while imprisoned, this guy “Jesus”, was probably a softy, walking around feeding people, healing people, teaching people.
5. Instead, they were expecting the guy who was going to come to organize an insurrection against Rome.
6. Who was going to free their people from being overly taxed by the Roman government?
7. John figured incorrectly when decided he could go toe-to-toe with Herod for divorcing his wife to marry Phillip’s wife, Herodias.
8. Why would he think he could get away with this? Because he figured the Messiah would be putting his military force in motion fairly soon, and he would be released.

(2) Jesus challenges His disciple to know who He is

(a) “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

1. Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others

Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them,
“***But who do you say that I am?***” Matthew 16:14-15
ESV

- a) Notice that Jesus first asks His disciples “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
- b) The people surrounding the areas where Jesus was doing ministry had formed opinions based on His work. They had wrongly assumed who He was.
- c) However, it is evidently clear by Jesus’ line of questioning that He is not concerned or bothered by what others think, who are not part of His disciples.
- d) Ultimately, He does care about what those who identify as followers think (those under His authority), although we couldn’t call it a concern, as what others think won’t change who He is.
- e) But, a true disciple understands Y’shua’s Sovereignty, thereby willingly surrendering to His Kingship.
- f) ***No true disciple*** would get the answer to this question wrong.

CHARACTER

2. Know the Facts

A. Challenging Someone's Character

(1) When challenging someone's character, be sure to know your facts are accurate—without any doubt!

(a) Are you the one?

1. But when John heard in the prison of the works of Christ, **he sent two** of his disciples. **Are you the one or shall we look for another?** Matthew 11:2-3 MKJV

a) Have you ever pondered the significance of John the Baptist sending “two” of his disciples to speak to Jesus?

(2) The Significance of Two

(a) The evidence of two witnesses...

1. “A single witness **shall not suffice against a person** for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the **evidence of two witnesses** or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. Deut 19:15

2. But if he does not listen, **take one or two others** along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. Matt 18:16

3. Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of ***two or three witnesses***. 1 Timothy 5:19
 - a) John the baptist was fully aware of the law established in Deuteronomy.
 - b) Sending ***two of his disciples*** to “speak” to Jesus was the proper way of raising an accusation.
 - c) In this case, based on the question posed, they were accusing ***Jesus of being an impostor***, maybe even worse—a charlatan.

(3) Why did John doubt Jesus being the “one”?

- (a) The majority of people in Israel were waiting for a king who would overthrow the current Roman rulership, one who would bring all nations under His obedience.

1. The ***scepter shall not depart from Judah***, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and ***to him shall be the obedience of the peoples***. Genesis 49:10 ESV
2. I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, ***“You are my Son; today I have begotten you.*** Ask of me, and ***I will make the nations your heritage***, and the ends of the earth your possession Psalms 2:7-8 ESV
3. ***For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his***

name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV

4. A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, ***until I make your enemies your footstool.***” The LORD sends forth from Zion ***your mighty scepter.*** Rule in the midst of your enemies! Psalm 110:1-2 ESV

5. Behold, ***I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.*** And the ***Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming,*** says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For ***he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.*** He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in

righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. ***I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts*** Malachi 3:1-5 ESV

B. Blessed for not being offended...

(1) Offended by His claims and His works...

(a) Can you imagine being offended by Jesus? Of course you can!

1. Blessed is he ***who is not offended*** by me... Matthew 11:6 ESV

a) Apparently, there were those who were, or, at the very least could have been offended by the work He had come to perform—the miraculous work that only God can perform.

b) Anyone could have come to take up arms, to form an insurrection and to challenge Rome’s military—to return “evil for evil”, in a sense.

- c) Prior to Jesus' coming there were many who could have fit this parameter.
 - d) However, in order for humans to perform miraculous deeds on behalf of heaven itself, and in order to establish a heavenly kingdom on behalf of Yahweh, it could only have happened by God first endowing His people to do so.
- (2) Would you have missed the beginning of His ministry as well?
- (a) More than a prophet...
 - 1. I believe we would have, why? Because if John the Baptist as ***“more than a Prophet”*** only ***“saw in part and prophesied in part”*** we would have done the same. Even after having God's final revelation of Himself in our hands, we still have a difficult time fully understanding His plans and how He is using all things for His plans to come to fulfillment. If we are not laser focused on His character and how He is working on the earth as prophesied in His Scriptures, revealed to His people by the power of His Holy Spirit, we will also ***“see in part”***

PROPHETIC FACTS

3. Prophecy Fulfilled

A. His Messenger!

(1) Prophetic Roles

(a) Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.

1. As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: ***“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’*** Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. Matthew 11:7-11 ESV

(2) John the baptist fulfills the role of the “one crying in the wilderness.

(a) ***Prepare the way of the Lord***; make His paths straight".
However, his influence with his people went much further than Scripture tells us.

1. **Josephus of antiquities wrote—** *“Now some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod's army came from God*, and that very justly, as a punishment of what he did against John, that was called the Baptist: for Herod slew him, who was a good man, and commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, both as to righteousness towards one another, and piety towards God, and so to come to baptism; for that the washing [with water] would be acceptable to him, if they made use of it, not in order to the putting away [or the remission] of some sins [only], but for the purification of the body; supposing still that the soul was thoroughly purified beforehand by righteousness. Now when [many] others came in crowds about him, for they were very greatly moved [or pleased] by hearing his words, ***Herod, who feared lest the great influence John had over the people might put it into his power and inclination to raise a rebellion, (for they seemed ready to do anything he should advise,) thought it best, by putting him to death, to prevent***

any mischief he might cause, and not bring himself into difficulties, by sparing a man who might make him repent of it when it would be too late.

Accordingly he was sent a prisoner, out of Herod's suspicious temper, to Macherus, the castle I before mentioned, **and was there put to death.** Now the Jews had an opinion that the destruction of this army was sent as a punishment upon Herod, and a mark of God's displeasure to him. Antiquities 18.5.2:116-119

- a) The reason John the Baptist questions Jesus if, “He is the one or do we look for another,” is rather evident paralleling Scripture with the writing of the historian Josephus.
- b) John’s disciples were ready to move on with **their idea of a rebellion**; Herod knew this rather well. However, God’s plan was not for Jesus to be an insurrectionist. Thereby, it is my assertion, Jesus had to leave John in prison to suffer the consequences of his actions when he called out Herod Antipas for divorcing his wife to marry Phillip’s wife, Herodias.

B. Doubting

- (1) John the Baptist—a type of Moses...

(a) Parallels

1. **Called people to repentance** from their unrighteous way of living by reminding them of the law.
2. He **led his people into the wilderness** in order to prepare them for the next chapter in God's prophetic calendar, **a new beginning**.
3. He **Baptized people in the Jordan river** making a symbolic statement parallel to their ancestry. In doing so, they were crossing over **from the wilderness into the promised land. Leaving the old behind and moving on with the new.**

(2) Reasons...

- (a) John's doubts came at the end of his ministry for a reason...

1. If we sit back and think about the timing of the disagreement between Jesus and John the Baptist, we can come to the conclusion that if John were to have wrestled with these doubts earlier, he would not have been as driven as he was. His sincere but shortsighted prophetic view was not wasteful.
2. It was the catalyst for John's tenacity when preaching what he preached.

- a) Yahweh reveals His work on the earth according to His perfect timing. He is never early and never late; He is always on time.
 - b) Regardless of whether we like the outcome of John the Baptist's life, it ended exactly the way Yahweh knew it would end. These scenarios have a tendency to scare us.
 - c) We tend to think that if we carry out God's plan for us in relation to His ministry on earth, that **we will suffer** similar consequences or outcomes.
 - d) However true that might be, the reality is that whether in good times or bad times we are to praise Him for allowing us the opportunity to partner up with Him in eternally rewarding activities, the capacity to live beyond the grave, and that all of life for the believer is not about what feels good!
3. As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "**Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?** See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch

me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” Luke 24:36-39 ESV

- a) Jesus had prophesied His own bodily resurrection.
- b) Even though He told His disciples He would rebuild “His temple” in three days, they still doubted in their hearts who this person standing in their midst could be?
- c) How much more could John the Baptist have doubted if Jesus was the one?

(3) Ask of Yahweh and He will give it...

(a) But, ask without doubting!

1. But let him ask in faith, ***with no doubting***, for ***the one who doubts*** is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. James 1:6 ESV

- a) Revelation of Yahweh’s plan only happens through asking Him to ***reveal His secrets to His people***.
- b) We can, however, find ourselves fighting the time factor which we cannot overcome.
- c) Only by surrendering to the fact that we might never see certain events happen on this side of eternity can we willingly live out our lives as if today were our last day on earth.

2. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1 ESV
3. ***Wait for the LORD***; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! Psalm 27:14 ESV

CONCLUSION

4. Pillows of Doubt

A. Recap...

- (1) John the Baptist was definitely someone who, if alive today, would be one of those people we would find rather annoying. He was the type of person that could annoy or offend anyone who was in opposition to his beliefs. His life was one of convictions. He impacted everyone around him because he lived out what he believed.
- (2) Most of us know he baptized Jesus and at that moment ushered in the earthly ministry of the Messiah. Any many know him better by the fact that he doubted who Jesus was by asking the infamous question, "Are you the one, or do we look for another?"
- (3) As established earlier, he felt this way about Jesus because of the news his disciples brought to him while captive in prison, and by his assessment of that news in light of his

understanding of who the Christ was supposed to be. He was looking for a different type of king.

- (4) After hearing the news, John expected Jesus to start organizing people to rescue him from prison, to take on Herod, the Roman army, all of the covenant-breakers, and to establish the endless government prophesied by Isaiah.
- (5) In Jesus had done so, John would have felt much better about his commitment; “I must decrease so that He will increase.” When John made that statement, he most definitely had no idea of the magnitude of what it meant. If he did, he would have been accepting of his imprisonment and okay with reports brought to him by his disciples.
- (6) In John 1:15 ESV... “(*John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me **ranks** before me, because he was before me.’”*), the word “ranks” is used as if John is thinking in military terms. At the very least, in his mind, he was going to be involved with ushering in the Messiah’s Kingship.
- (7) The takeaway for believers today is this; don’t be dogmatic about your “perfect” understanding of who Jesus is. Nobody on this side of heaven understand it perfectly.
- (8) What you can sure of is that God can use you for His purposes, regardless of your lack of understanding, just as

long as you share view with John— *“Repent! For the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* And *“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*

- (9) There is no other way to summarize Salvation and Judgment; that is the message we should focus on.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. In Matthew 11:2-3, it says John had heard something from prison...**
 - A. What did he hear? (See: Matthew 10:5-15)
 - B. What seemingly odd question had he instructed his disciples to ask?
 - C. How is this question relate to Matthew 16:14-16?
 - D. How does Y’shua answer the question using prophecy from Isaiah 61?
- 2. John specifically sent two disciples to inquire of the Lord...**
 - A. Why do you think he sent two? (See: Deuteronomy 19:15; I Timothy 5:19)
- 3. John, his disciples, and most faithful Jews in the first century were waiting for the Messiah to show up a certain way with a victorious approach to restoration...**

- A. Use the following Scriptures to craft a narrative about what you think they expected. (See: Genesis 49:10; Psalms 2:7-8; Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 110:1-2; Malachi 3:1-5)
- B. How can Matthew 11:6 help you from being disappointed from unmet expectations?
- C. In John 1:15 (ESV) the word “ranks” is used, as if John is thinking in military terms. How might that explain John’s confidence in John 3:27-30?

4. Y’shua affirms John’s calling in the midst of his doubts...

- A. What does He say about John? (See Matthew 11:7-11)
- B. How does Luke 24:36-39 show us that doubting seems to be a part of the faith journey?
- C. How do the following scriptures encourage us in the midst of our doubts? (See: James 1:6; Psalm 27:1; 27:14)