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THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

# Doubt Leading to Greater Faith

**Matthew 11:1–15** 

# What causes you to doubt?

Jesus meets our doubts with grace and reveals that His kingdom advances through unexpected people and surprising power.

1 When Jesus had finished giving instructions to his twelve disciples, he moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns. 2 Now when John heard in prison what the Christ was doing, he sent a message through his disciples 3 and asked him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

## Isaiah 11:4

He will strike the land with a scepter from his mouth, and he will kill the wicked with a command from his lips.

# Malachi 4:1-2

"For look, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and everyone who commits wickedness will become stubble. The coming day will consume them," says the LORD of Armies, "not leaving them root or branches. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and you will go out and playfully jump like calves from the stall."

4 Jesus replied to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, 6 and blessed is the one who isn't offended by me."

# Jude 22

Have mercy on those who waver and doubt.

# Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.

7 As these men were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? See, those who wear soft clothes are in royal palaces.

9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written:

See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;

he will prepare your way before you.

11 "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one greater" than John the Baptist has appeared, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence, and the violent have been seizing it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if you're willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who is to come.

### Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

15 Let anyone who has ears listen.

#### Truth that overcomes doubt

- \* Jesus is the eternal Son of God.
- \* Jesus overcame sin and death on the cross.
- \* Jesus is our resurrected Savior.
- \* Jesus has authority over Satan.
- \* Jesus is reigning at the right hand of the Father
- \* Jesus will return in power and glory

# Allow doubt to increase your faith

- 1. Bring your doubts to Jesus, not away from him.
- 2. Value Jesus' plan for your life more than your plans.
- 3. Be a prophetic voice to a lost and dying world.

When you doubt, remember the cross of Christ.