



Title: The Misgivings About the King (part 1) – John the Baptist’s Doubt

Text: Matt. 11:1-15

1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities. 2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? 8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. 15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Introduction:

1. After the Lord instructed His disciples to pray and his commissioning of the 12 apostles, and His 2nd discourse (The Sermon on Missions) – the Lord Jesus returns to His ministries.
2. Since the Lord was being rejected everywhere and the Forerunner was in prison, John the Baptist began to experience doubt concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. John’s Doubt (vv.1-3)

- A. John was in prison, facing death. He needed assurance. So did his disciples.
- B. How do we get assurance? We look to what does the Bible say!

II. Jesus’ Reply (vv.4-6)

- A. The Lord appealed to Isa. 35:4-6; 61:1-2.
- B. Anybody can say, I am the Messiah. BUT Jesus had one main point: Here is what the Scriptures say, here is what I do – am I fulfilling the Scriptures? YES!

III. Jesus’ Commendation of John the Baptist (vv.7-14)

- A. The Lord Jesus eulogized John after the Baptists left.
- B. The Lord knows that John is not like a reed shaken in the wind. (He does not vacillate).
- C. John is “more than a prophet” – because He prepared the way of the LORD in fulfillment to Mal. 3:1; and Isa. 40:3.
- D. John is the greatest of mankind (though a short ministry) – He was the Forerunner of the Messiah. The only exception is the one who is “least” (last) – The Messiah, Himself.
- E. The Kingdom suffereth violence and the violent (persecutors) take it by force.
- F. The prophets and the law prophesied until John – meaning John began something new!
- G. “If you will receive it” – John’s message as the forerunner – then he fulfills the Elijah prophecy. BUT Israel rejected both John and Jesus.

Conclusion:

1. We look at the Scriptures and test all things by it.
2. We desire to understand all of this so that we know where we fit in – in God’s program.