

## When Doubts Arise

Matthew 11:1-6

### Introduction:

- What is the opposite of:
  1. Black -
  2. Pepper -
  3. Doubt (Matt 14:31; 21:21) -
- Believers in Christ are not exempt from doubt
  1. Peter d\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 14:31)
  2. In our study today, John the B\_\_\_\_\_ doubted.
  3. What must we do when doubts arise?

### Look \_\_\_\_\_ your circumstances (2,3)

- John the Baptist's purpose was to prepare the w\_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus.
  1. He pointed Jesus out as the L\_\_\_\_\_ of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29)
  2. He told his followers that Jesus's ministry must increase but his ministry must d\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 3:30)
- John the Baptist in prison
  1. He was imprisoned for rebuking Herod for s\_\_\_\_\_ his brother's wife and marrying her (Matt 14:4).
  2. He heard of the works of Jesus and he (3<sup>rd</sup> personal singular) asked Jesus through a group of disciples if He was the C\_\_\_\_\_ one or not (i.e. the Christ) – Matt 11:2,3.
  3. His adverse circumstance caused him to doubt
- Application
  1. When adversity comes into our lives, we often have a tendency to doubt God.
    - a. We might doubt the promise of His p\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 28:20; Heb 13:5)
    - b. We might doubt that God is not listening to our p\_\_\_\_\_ because we do not have the answer we want (Heb 4:16)
    - c. We might doubt that God can work our adversity out for our g\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 8:28)
  2. We cannot let circumstances be the filter for t\_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 42)

- a. The psalmist's enemies saw his misfortune and taunted, "Where is your God?" – deriving truth t\_\_\_\_\_ circumstances.
- b. The psalmist looked p\_\_\_\_\_ his adverse circumstance and kept his focus on God.

### \_\_\_\_\_ out your assumptions (4-6)

- Our every day conversations are often filled in with assumptions
  1. Is there a 4<sup>th</sup> of July in England?
  2. How many times have you made reasonable assumptions in a conversation only to find out that your assumption was wrong? (Common in marriage, within families, in the work place and among friends).
  3. If we do this with people, we will most likely do this with God's word (e.g. reading \_\_\_\_\_ the text something that is not there).
- John the Baptist's ministry involved warning people of the coming w\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 3:7,10-12). He assumed that the Christ would bring God's wrath, but he was only seeing Jesus's marvelous works! Jesus pointed John the Baptist to Scripture, which John was EXTREMELY familiar with.
  1. Jesus pointed out His m\_\_\_\_\_ as fulfilling Is 35:4-6, which is a prophecy about the coming of Yahweh (LORD) to save His people.
    - a. Jesus did not q\_\_\_\_\_ this passage (the passage lists 3 of the 5 miracles Jesus listed).
    - b. Jesus alluded to the t\_\_\_\_\_ of this passage – the LORD coming with miracles.
    - c. Therefore, Jesus was identifying Himself as the LORD (Yahweh). John was commissioned by God to prepare the w\_\_\_\_\_ for the LORD (Matt 3:3; Is 40:3)
  2. Jesus pointed out His activity of preaching the gospel to the p\_\_\_\_\_ as a fulfillment of Is 61:1.
    - a. This is the o\_\_\_\_\_ place in the O.T. which mentions the gospel coming to the poor (the Hebrew reads "afflicted"; the Greek translation reads "poor").
    - b. The person preaching to the poor was the S\_\_\_\_\_ Servant, who would eventually suffer for sin (Is 53).

3. The idea of the Christ suffering was offensive to many. And that is why Jesus said, “Blessed is the one who does not take offense at Me.” (Matt 11:6).

- a. Jesus’s first coming was to s\_\_\_\_\_ for sins
- b. Jesus’s second coming would be with w\_\_\_\_\_ (Rev 6:17)

●Application

1. Wrong assumptions will always lead you a\_\_\_\_\_ from the truth.
2. When God’s word c\_\_\_\_\_ your assumption, throw out your assumption.

**Hold \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ’s word**

●Practical example – a believer has been diagnosed with cancer.

1. How might that person let this diagnosis distort the truth?
  - a. *Why me, Lord?*
  - b. *Don’t you care about me, Lord?*
  - c. *My life is over.*
2. What assumptions might this person make that will lead away from the truth – *Lord, I trust that you will heal me.* (So, what if He does not heal you?)

●We must look past our circumstances and cast out our assumptions.

1. Whenever you encounter adversity (Jms 2:2-4) – *G\_\_\_\_\_ me, Lord.*
2. Whenever you have anxiety (1 Pet 5:7) – *H\_\_\_\_\_ me, Lord.*
3. When you face grave cir (2 Tim 2:21) – *U\_\_\_\_\_ me, Lord.*
4. When you cannot see what good can come out of such horrible things (Rom 8:28) – *Regardless of the outcome, Lord, use it for g\_\_\_\_\_.*