

Are You The One? Matthew 11:2-6

I. Who Is The Savior?

- A. Israel is in an unprecedented time of expectation
 - 1. The prophecy of Daniel put the timing of the Christ right there in the beginning of the 1st century
 - 2. Several people had already claimed to be the Messiah, but they were false claims
 - 3. Jesus' claims were being heavily fought by the Israelite ruling class
- B. John asks, "Are you the one..." People are still asking this question today
 - 1. It is a valid question for us
 - 2. We desire salvation and a home in heaven so we must know who can give that to us
- C. If Jesus is the one, then our search is over

II. The Forerunner

- A. John the Baptist was called by God to prepare the way for the Messiah (John 1:23)
- B. Luke 3:1–3 (ESV); ¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- C. John recognized Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," and "the Son of God."
- D. John 1:29–34 (ESV); ²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."
 - 1. He witnessed the Spirit descending like a dove
 - 2. He heard God's voice, "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased."
- E. Yet, after Jesus was started His ministry and John was in Jail, doubts assailed him

III. The Doubting

- A. Matthew 11:2–3 (ESV); ² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"
- B. John may have had these reasons to be so uncertain about Jesus
 - 1. He was in prison and Jesus had not freed him
 - 2. John probably saw his own death coming soon
 - 3. Jesus had been telling the Israelites not to say anything — His identity as the Messiah was not being proclaimed
 - 4. John may not have understood why it had to be this way
 - a) Jesus could have been put to death for sedition had He been seen as trying to supplant the Roman leadership
 - b) His purpose was to die for the sins of the world
 - 5. "By a reference to Isaiah 61:1, he declared plainly enough, and yet not too plainly, that he was the Messiah.

6. He worked a number of miracles in their presence in proof of his Messianic claims (Luke 7:21), and finally sent them back to John with a message in which he expressly mentioned his miracles, and promised a blessing to those who should attach themselves to him.
 7. The spectacle of Christ's miracles must have been particularly impressive to the disciples of John, who performed no miracles (John 10:41)" ¹
- C. "It should be noted that in times of personal misfortune, suffering, hardship, or persecution, one's faith is inclined to waver; and those things which seemed so positive and certain under more favorable circumstances and in brighter days tend to be dimmed and obscured." ²
1. I am sure we have all gone through those times where our faith became dimmed or even obscured by the trials and hardship we faced (at the time)
 2. I want everyone here to understand that doubting is normal and natural for us
 3. Thomas would not believe that Jesus was resurrected until he saw Him personally with the marks of death still on Him
 4. John 20:25 (ESV); So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."
 5. We are a people who often cannot see the bigger picture
 6. We are too caught up in our own suffering to see the grand plan that God has set out for our lives
 7. We did not get to see Jesus in person after His resurrection as Thomas did
 8. We did not get messengers from Jesus to comfort and reassure us while we were in prison awaiting our death
 9. But we have the whole — the complete message of God — written out in our own language so we can see all these events transpire
 10. We can even go back and see them again when we need to
- D. When you are assailed by doubts you can pick up God's word and see that Jesus is The One

IV. The One

- A. Matthew 11:4–6 (ESV); ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ 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. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."
- B. The Blind see
- C. The lame walk
 1. Deprived of one foot ³
 2. Mark 9:45 (ESV); And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.

¹ J. R. Dummelow, One Volume Commentary (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1937), p. 664.

² Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Matthew 11". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/matthew-11.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

³ William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1093.

3. Matthew 12:9–13 (ESV); ⁹ He went on from there and entered their synagogue. ¹⁰ And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. ¹¹ He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” ¹³ Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.
 4. “In the New Testament (Matthew 12:10; Mark 3:1; Luke 6:6) "withered hand" was probably our modern "infantile paralysis," which may leave one or more limbs shrunken and powerless without detriment to the general health.” ⁴
- D. Lepers are cleansed
1. A chronic infectious disease caused by a mycobacterium (*Mycobacterium leprae*) affecting especially the skin and peripheral nerves and characterized by the formation of nodules or macules that enlarge and spread accompanied by loss of sensation with eventual paralysis, wasting of muscle, and production of deformities ⁵
 2. An incurable disease in the 1st century — they were sent to live in colonies by themselves so as not to infect anyone else
 3. They were required to call out “unclean” if approached by anyone (who was not a leper)
- E. This is the power of the one we serve, the one who saved us.
- V. Good news preached
- A. This is the important part for us
 - B. The Gospel (good news) is that we have salvation in Jesus
 - C. That Jesus was the only sacrifice acceptable to God that would take care of our sin problem
 - D. It is through His body that we are forgiven
 - E. It is through His blood that we are forgiven
 - F. None other can provide this forgiveness, only Jesus
 - G. His empty grave is proof
 - H. The Spirit is our guarantee that He is coming back
 - I. You can be sure that Jesus is the one!

⁴ Orr, James, M.A., D.D. General Editor. "Entry for 'WITHERED'". "International Standard Bible Encyclopedia". 1915.

⁵ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).