

Sovereign Grace Church

“John's Doubt” outline

August 18, 2019

Matthew 11: 1-6

As we return to our study of Matthew Jesus has just finished giving instructions and warnings to His 12 disciples concerning their being sent out to carry on His ministry in the various towns and villages of their area around Capereum. There is no mention by Matthew of their return. Instead Matthew begins to describe the responses of various people and groups to His message of the availability of His Kingdom.

The first response He describes is that of His cousin, John the Baptist. John and Jesus were pretty much contemporaries and John's call was to preach a gospel of repentance in order to prepare a response for the coming Messiah. John's assumption was that Jesus was this Messiah.

However, even John was struck by certain concerns. Jesus and John both preached the same Gospel: *“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”* However there was an element seemingly absent in Jesus' message that John tried to emphasize.....that of the risk one took in rejecting this offer....judgment. Today we will consider this doubt of John's and Jesus' response to it.

1. John the Baptist

Lk 1: 36; Lk 1: 13-17; Matt3: 1-2,4; Lk 3:: 3; Jn 3: 29-30; Matt14:3-5, 10

2. John's Doubt Concerning Jesus vv. 1-3

- **John's Focus on Repentance**

Lk 3:3

- **John's Focus on ritual obedience....Fasting**

Matt 9:14

- **John's Focus on Judgment**
Lk 3: 7, 16-17

3. Jesus' Response vv. 4-6

- **Jesus' non-answer**
- **Jesus and the evidence of the Kingdom**
- **Jesus' Challenge of Faith v. 6**

Summary Lessons:
Jn 13: 10

Questions for Discussion and Conversation

- 1. Have you ever had doubts concerning Jesus or the Scriptures as a believer? How did you overcome those doubts? Did you overcome those doubts? What are bad ways that people tend to deal with their doubts? What are good ways? How do we know that doubt is not a sin? Is it a preferred status of mind?**
- 2. What is the place of judgment in the Good News of the Kingdom that Jesus preached? Is there a place for it? How is it tied to the forgiveness of sins? Why do you think Jesus does not explain how God can forgive sins without denying His own righteous nature?**
- 3. Why do you think that Jesus did not stress judgment as much. Did He ever warn people of the judgment? Why, when He did, were the normal sinners not usually in His sights? Who was the main target of Jesus' warnings of impending judgment?**