

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Matthew 11:2-6

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?" 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."

ALSO READ

Matt 11:7-10

Matt 3:11-12

Mark 9:14-24

Psalms 22

1 Tim 6:12

James 1:2-4, 6

Matt 7:24

Isaiah 35:3-10

Study Guide 23 Jan 2011 – Doubt



Summary

John the Baptizer was Jesus' cousin, a great prophet of the time. In spite of this and his great faith and powerful ministry, when John faced tribulations, he had doubts.

John had doubts partly because he had wrong expectations of who Jesus was. Likewise our false expectations and assumptions about God can be the root of our doubt. John reacted by going straight to Jesus and proactively asking Him the questions he had doubts about. Our doubts should drive us to God, not away from Him.

Is our faith only strong when we are having good times? Often our faith wanes when hard times come.

We must not equate tough times with being outside the will of God. The bible says that the righteous will suffer. It is part of living, and more so a part of living righteously. We need to know that scripture prescribes suffering and encourages faithfulness during our trials.

Jesus answers John's question by telling Him that He is the Messiah. He promises that His word is true. We need to respond like John, choose not to be offended by Jesus and His ways and His word.

Key points

Jesus is an offense to many. We are offended when He does not meet up to our false expectations.

Questions

>>Have you ever been disappointed or offended? Share about a time your expectations were not met.

>>How do your circumstances affect your faith?

>>What evidences of God's grace do you see in your life during times of doubt?

>>Share one way you have misunderstood God in the past.

>>Why do good people suffer?

>>What truths in Scripture do you lean on during times of doubt?

>>Where do we need to repent from being offended by Jesus?

Application

>>Make it a point to become very familiar with God's ways and words.

>>Remember to run straight to God the next time you have a doubt. God will reassure you of His promises.

Final thoughts

God is completely trustworthy! Shouldn't we then be eager to hear and remember His promises and words?