

John The Baptist
The Doubting Prophet

Matthew 11:1-24





Matthew 10:11-42

Mission Confrontation

- **Be Confident**

God sent us. He is with us.

- **Be Courageous**

Proclaim the gospel boldly

- **Be Committed**

Mission Conflict and Rebellion

Matthew 11-12

- Rebellion Against His Prophet (11:1-30)
- Rebellion Against His Principles (12:1-21)
- Rebellion Against His Power (12:22-37)
- Rebellion Against His Person (12:38-50)



Matthew 11:1-24
John the Baptist
The Doubting Prophet

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. ² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

**A Troubled Faithful
Messenger**



Is Jesus the Christ?

Doubt and Unbelief

They are not the same thing!

Doubt is not unbelief.

***Doubt is natural
within faith***

**It draws us near to God,
receive His assurance and
increase our faith in Him.**



He looked to Jesus for answer

⁴ Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Jesus directed him to the word of God with tact and tenderness

Exhorted Him to Persevere

⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'



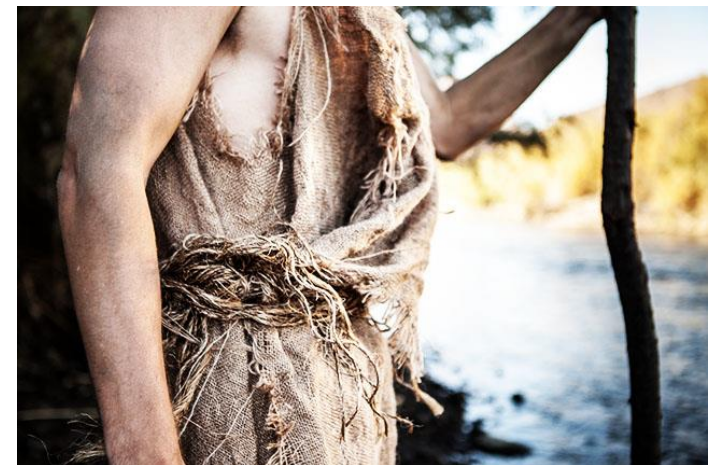
Commended His Boldness and Courage

*‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see?
A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go
out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those
who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces.*

Not weak and impressionable

Firm and Authentic Living

Only to please God



Living True to His Calling and Convictions

⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written:

*“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”*

A prophet and messenger

Proclaiming the kingdom of

God and Jesus the Messiah



Diagnosis:
Spiritual Poverty of People

16 'To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others:

17 "We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn."

**Stubborn Prideful
Hearts!**



Hardness of Heart

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon."



19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."



A Grave Warning: **Woe on Unrepentant Towns**

²¹ 'Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.



²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades...²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.'

Judgement with Compassion

*Woe! Doom and Pity,
Sorrow and Tragic!*

Urgency for us to Witness and Pray!



Surprise for us!

Take heart and hear it!

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

John the greatest OT prophets

We are greater than him!

We entered his kingdom with the New Better Covenant and Promise



Go and Be
His Courageous
Faithful
Witnesses!

***It's a Great
Calling and
Privilege***



**Witnesses
for Jesus**

**Even as we doubt
when people and
things are against us**

Draw near to God

*Have doubt but not despair.
He strengthens our faith.*

*He explains, encourages,
and exhorts us to persevere.*

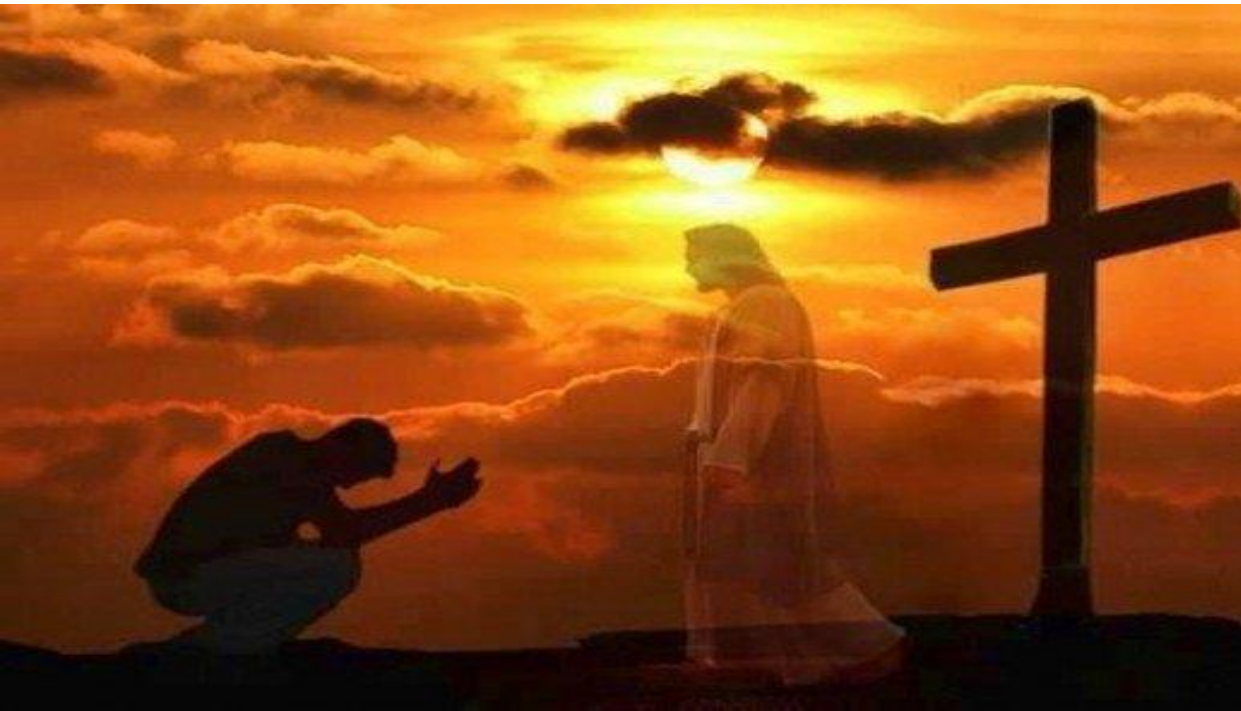
Doubting
GOD



Understand Why People Rebel

Know the Urgency of the Task

Pray and Work!



**Go and Be His Courageous
Faithful Witnesses!**

Build His Kingdom Here



Acts 1:8 *Going Mission with God!*