

# Even a Godly Man Can Fall into Temporary Doubt

Sermon 35 in the Matthew Series

## Matthew 11:1-19

### INTRO: 11:1

#### I. Even a Strong Faith can have Moments of Wavering 11:2-6

A. The Answer John needed was an answer from Scripture.

1. Isaiah 35:3-6a, 10
2. Isaiah 61:1 – “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because he has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor.”
3. Isaiah 8:13-15 -- Blessed is he who is not offended because of me.

**1 Corinthians 1:23-24** -- we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**Romans 9:33** -- As it is written: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

**1 Peter 2:7-10** -- Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone, (Psalm 118:22) -- <sup>8</sup> and “A stone of stumbling -- And a rock of offense.” (Isa. 8:14). They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

#### II. A Prophet and More 11:7-10

A. What Did you go out to See?

John bore witness of Christ.

Christ bore witness of John, thereby validating John’s preaching and his testimony of Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

B. John the Baptist – the Greatest O.T. Prophet

### **III. John's Hour of Doubt becomes His Greatest Hour 10:11-15**

By vindicating John – Christ was also vindicating his own ministry – for John was the ordained forerunner to pave the way before Christ as it says in the Scriptures – v. 10 from Malachi 3:1 and also Malachi 4:5.

**Question:** Was John the Elijah who Malachi prophesied would come?

The answer is YES.

We are not looking for Elijah to come – he came.

We are not waiting Elijah but for the second coming of Christ.

See Matthew 17:10-13

### **IV. The Hypocrisy of Christ Rejecters 11:16-19**

The ministries of John and Jesus were so different.

John an ascetic.

Jesus a friend of sinners.

What they had in common is both ministries were rejected by those who refuse to listen to God.

### **V. Final Applications**

1. God does not NEED our faith to act.
2. Even those with GREAT FAITH can falter at times in their Faith.
3. Jesus has a heart of compassion – even with failing saints -- and his coming in the flesh has made him a sympathetic High Priest who knows our weakness and our sorrows.