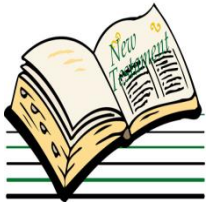


## Sermon Notes



Title: "Christ's Patience With an Honest Doubter"

Text: Matthew 11:2-19

Theme: We are closer to Jesus than John was because we are united to Christ in His Body, the Church, and we are beneficiaries of even greater blessings than was John. We do more than bear witness to what Christ will do. We bear witnesses to what He has finished.

I. John the Baptist \_\_\_\_\_ in His  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (2-6)

II. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ of John and Those Who  
\_\_\_\_\_ to His Kingdom (7-15)

III. The Crowds \_\_\_\_\_ the Ministries of Both John  
and Jesus (16-19)

### IV. Applications

A. Your \_\_\_\_\_ in God's Kingdom and the  
\_\_\_\_\_ you have from it far  
\_\_\_\_\_ what any saint in the Old Testament  
experienced.

B. You tackle \_\_\_\_\_ in your faith by  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Next Week Read: Matthew 11:20-24

**Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:**

1. Who asked a serious question of Jesus? Why did he ask this question (v. 2)?
2. What was going on in this person's life at the time he raised this question (v. 2a)?
3. What was the question he posed to Jesus (v. 3)?
4. What was Jesus' answer (vv. 4-5)?
5. What is the blessing that Jesus pronounces (v. 6)?
6. About whom did Jesus speak to the crowds after this (v. 7a)?
7. How did Jesus evaluate the importance of this person (v. 11a)?
8. In comparison to this person, how did Jesus regard those who are thought to be the least members in His Kingdom (v. 11b)?
9. What prophetic role did this person fulfill in God's plan of redemption (v. 14)?
10. How did Jesus compare His generation in terms of their response to His ministry and that of the one sent by God to announce the Messiah's coming (vv. 16-17)?
11. What did the crowds say about John the Baptist? Why (v. 18)? About Jesus? Why (v. 19a)?
12. What is proved right or vindicated by what it does (v. 19b)?
13. How is it that John was greater than anyone who lived in the Old Testament age?
14. How can someone who belongs to the New Covenant Church be greater than John?
15. As a Christian, what do you have that John and the saints of the Old Testament did not have?
16. What did John the Baptist do when doubts arose in his mind about Jesus?

17. Is it surprising to you that John the Baptist had doubts about Jesus? Why or why not?
18. Do you ever have doubts about Jesus and God's will for your life?
19. What doubts about Jesus have you had or perhaps have now?
20. How do you handle doubts and fears when they arise in your heart?

**Brief Outline of Matthew's Gospel:**

- I. The Arrival of the Kingdom 1:1-2:23
- II. The Announcement of the Kingdom 3:1-7:29
- III. The Extension of the Kingdom 8:1-11:1
- IV. The Opposition to the Kingdom 11:2-13:53
  - A. Soft Opposition From Unlikely Places 11:2-30
  - B. Growing Opposition Based on Jesus' Practices on the Sabbath 12:1-14
  - C. Intense Opposition to Jesus as God's Chosen Servant 12:15-45
  - D. Potential Opposition from Jesus' Own Family 12:46-50
  - E. *Teaching on the Nature of the Kingdom and How It Grows Despite Opposition* 13:1-52
  - F. Transition as Jesus Departs 13:53
- V. The Authority of the Kingdom 13:54-19:2
- VI. The Changes of the Kingdom 19:3-26:5
- VII. The Victory of the Kingdom 26:6-28:20