

Solving the Problem of Doubt

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 11:1-6.
- B. Matthew focuses on addressing who Jesus Christ is.
- C. There are many responses to Jesus, and one of them is doubt.
- D. Doubt normally belongs to believers in Scripture. (Luke 12:29, Acts 20, 1 Timothy 2:8)

II. Someone as great as John the Baptist doubted.

- A. When Jesus is called “the Coming One,” he is called the Messiah (Psalm 40:7; 118:26; Mark 1:7; Luke 2:16; Hebrews 10:37)
- B. John was perplexed whether the Jews were looking for another.
- C. John went to the right source with his doubt—Jesus.

III. The man is blessed who does not doubt, Jesus says.

IV. John’s doubt did not affect Jesus love for him.

V. Reasons John doubted.

A. Difficult circumstances.

1. The thing to do is to go to the Lord.
2. Paul rejoiced in difficult circumstances. (Philippians 4)

B. Worldly influences.

1. The things Christ was doing did not parallel the people’s expectations—overturning the Romans and giving free food. (John 6; 10:24)
2. We cannot let the world dictate what God is going to do and be.

C. Incomplete Revelation.

1. John did not have a firsthand look. (1 John 1:1)
2. This is a legitimate need. (Luke 7)
3. Some doubt because they do not experience God’s revelation.
4. Our firsthand experience with Christ comes through Scripture.

D. Unfulfilled expectation. (2 Peter 3:3)

1. Jesus points to his works.

2. Jesus gave signs of the kingdom. (Isaiah 35; 61)

VI. Conclusion. (Matthew 14, 2 Timothy 2:13, Luke 12:29)

Application Questions:

1. Why do you think doubt is so prominent among believers in Scripture?

2. Which source of doubt do you struggle with the most?

3. How would you counsel someone struggling with doubt? Explain.
