

Doubt (Matthew 11:2-19)

Introduction

- Do many Christians today go through a period of doubt?
- Give five examples of why doubts come to Christians.
  - i)
  - ii)
  - iii)
  - iv)
  - v)
- What is the theme of Matthew 11 - 12?
- And how does Matthew 13 follow this up?

i "I've got my doubts, there's no doubt about that!"

- Why might John the Baptist have had his doubts (v2-3)?
- What does he do about it?
- What is the tone of his question for Jesus?
- How does this help us to understand what doubt is?
- In what manner does Jesus respond to John's question (v4-6)?
- Why is that encouraging?
- Where does Jesus point John to?
- List two passages which Jesus has in mind.
- What three steps may help if you are struggling with doubt, then?
  - i)

ii)

iii)

ii “I’m not sure it’s as dramatic as being the end of an era!”

- Why is John no mere prophet (v7-10)?
- What was the significance of a “messenger” in Jesus’ day?
- So what is John saying about Jesus?
- Why are new covenant believers greater than John (v11)?
- What is v12 saying?
- And what is v13 saying?
- Who is John the Baptist according to v14-15 – and should we take this perfectly literally?
- What does all this teach about Jesus?
- And what does all this teach about us?
- What should you do if you are not currently a follower of Christ?

iii “You can’t please all of the people all of the time!”

- What is the point of Jesus’ illustration in v16-17?
- What was John’s life like, and what did the Jews say about him (v18)?
- What was Jesus’ life like, and what did the Jews say about him (v19)?
- What does this show?
- In what ways are we getting a taste of this today?
- How should we respond?