

OVERCOMING DOUBT MATT 11:1-3 7/11/18

V1 JESUS MINISTERS ALONE WHEN JESUS HAD FINISHED GIVING HIS INSTRUCTION TO HIS DISCIPLES JESUS DEPARTED FROM THERE AND BEGAN TO PREACH AND TEACH IN THEIR CITIES WHILE JESUS DISCIPLES GO ON THEIR MISSION JESUS MINISTERS ALONE HIS MINISTRY TO TEACH AND PREACH WAS TO EXPLAIN AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

V2-3 JOHN DOUBTS JESUS JOHN WAS A TRUE BELIEVER JOHN WAS NOT QUESTIONING THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD AS REVEALED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT OR AS REVEALED TO HIM AT THE BAPTISM OF JESUS HE WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE TRUTHS JOHN NEEDED CONFORMATION

JESUS HIMSELF HAD TESTIFIED OF JOHN MATT 11:11 THAT THOSE BORN AMONG WOMEN THERE HAD NOT ARISEN ANYONE GREATER THAN JOHN

THOUGH THE LORD UNDERSTANDS THE DOUBTS OF HIS CHILDREN HE IS NEVER PLEASED WITH THEIR DOUBT BECAUSE IT REFLECTS AGAINST HIM THE DOUBT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS THE RESULT OF WEAKNESS RATHER THAN SIN

JOHN HAD BEEN PUT IN PRISON BY HEROD MATT 14:3-4 FOR DENOUNCING THE KING'S ADULTEROUS MARRIAGE TO HIS BROTHERS WIFE JOHN HAD ALREADY ADDRESSED JESUS AS THE MESSIAH THE LAMB OF GOD AND BAPTIZED HIM IN THE JORDON RIVER AND DECLARED THAT JESUS MUST INCREASE AND HE MUST DECREASE JOHN 3:30

JOHN HAD ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED JESUS AS THE CHRIST AND TRUSTED HIM AS HIS LORD AND SAVIOR SO HE SENDS WORD AND SAID TO HIM ARE YOU THE EXPECTED ONE OR SHALL WE LOOK FOR SOMEONE ELSE

THE FACT THAT JOHN SENT HIS DISCIPLES TO JESUS IS A TESTIMONY TO HIS FAITH IN HIS HEART HE BELIEVED THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH AND TRUSTED HIM AS LORD BUT HIS CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CAUSED HIS EMOTIONS TO PUT A CLOUD OF DOUBT OVER HIS ASSURANCE COULD HE HAVE BEEN WRONG WHAT HE IS SAYING IS I DO BELIEVE HELP MY UNBELIEF

IT SHOULD BE REASSURING TO US THAT EVEN A MAN OF JOHN'S SPIRITUAL STATUE AND GIFTS WAS SUBJECT TO DOUBT FOUR REASONS FOR HIS DOUBT CAN BE SEEN REASONS THAT CAUSE CHRISTIANS TO DOUBT TODAY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES WORLDLY INFLUENCE INCOMPLETE REVELATION AND UNFULFILLED EXPECTATIONS

JOHN WAS IN PRISON FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS HE HAD BEEN IN PRISON FOR ABOUT A YEAR HE HAD DONE EXACTLY WHAT GOD HAD ASKED HIM TO DO WHEN HE SENT HIS DISCIPLES TO JESUS TO ASK IF HE WAS THE MESSIAH

IF JESUS WAS TRULY THE MESSIAH WHY DID HE LET HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT SUFFER IN PRISON WHERE WAS GOD'S LOVE AND COMPASSION NOT TO MENTION HIS JUSTICE WHERE WAS GOD'S PROMISE THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO CAPTIVES

NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE PAINFUL AND TRYING OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE THE SAME AS JOHN'S GOING TO THE LORD TO QUIET OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS

EVEN THOUGH JOHN HAD HEARD OF THE WORKS OF CHRIST HIS INFORMATION WAS SECOND HAND HE HAD BEEN IN PRISON FOR A YEAR MANY BELIEVERS TODAY ALSO DOUBT TRUTHS ABOUT GOD BECAUSE OF INCOMPLETE INFORMATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE INADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WORD

JOHN PROBABLY SHARED SOME OF THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF HIS DAY THE JEWS OF JESUS DAY BELIEVED THAT JESUS WOULD DELIVER THEM FROM THE ROMANS BUT JESUS HAD DONE NOTHING TO OPPOSE ROME IN WORDS OR ACTIONS

SHOULD WE LOOK FOR SOMEONE ELSE HIS MISCONCEPTIONS LEAD HIM TO UNFULFILLED EXPECTATIONS JESUS SAID YOU WOULD KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH WOULD SET YOU FREE