Recognizing Jesus

Matthew 11:1-6

* Setting, 11:1
  + Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Messiah
    - Ch1, testimony of history
    - Ch1, testimony of the virgin birth
    - Ch2, testimony of the king-makers & prophecy
    - Ch3, testimony of John the Baptist
    - Ch3, testimony of God
    - Ch4, testimony of power over the accuser
    - Ch5-7, testimony of His Word
    - Ch8-9, testimony of His Work
    - Ch10, testimony of the disciples
  + How will you respond to Jesus?
    - With doubt? 11:1-15
    - Negatively? Most of chapters 11-12
    - Positively? Ends of chapters 11-12
  + Jesus continues to minister
    - When Jesus had finished sending the 12
    - He kept going, city by city
    - Teaching
    - Preaching
* Asking God, 11:2-3
  + John the Baptist
    - Prepared the Messianic Way, Mt 3, Jn 1
    - Warned of judgment: ax, fire, winnowing
    - Baptism of repentance
    - He heard about the deeds of the Christ, v2
      * Where was Messiah’s Judgment?
      * Where was the King’s Kingdom?
  + Doubt (these four following outline points taken from MacArthur)
    - Dire circumstances
      * In prison, though righteous
      * Why does God let bad things happen to good people?
      * Does God really love me?
    - Worldly influences
      * The spirit of the age. What does the Christ do?
      * Governance. Comfort. Honor.
      * How does sin affect doubt?
    - Incomplete revelation
      * How gracious for God to fill in what John lacked
      * We have all we need (2 Pet 1:3)
      * Often, we’d like more…
    - Unfulfilled expectation
      * What did you expect…that you didn’t get?
      * What role does pride play in this?
  + Where do you look for answers?
    - John goes to Jesus
    - Are you The Coming One?
    - Or, should we look for another kind of King?
      * God is giving exactly what you need, even when it doesn’t resemble what you want
      * Rom 8:29, conformed to the image of Christ
* Receiving God’s Response, 11:4-6
  + Jesus loves you
    - Jesus was silent, but active, Lk 7:21
    - Go and tell John your testimony, 4
      * What Biblical testimony has God sent to you?
      * Did Jesus change John’s circumstances?
      * What forms your hope?
  + Looking toward the Kingdom
    - Causing the blind to see (illumination)
    - Making the lame to walk (sanctification)
    - Cleansing the lepers (purification)
    - Opening the ears of the deaf
    - Raising the dead to life (regeneration)
    - Offering Good News to the poor (Mt 5:3ff)
  + Blessed
    - What’s tripping you up? What is it about the Gospel that you find offensive (scandal)?
    - In what way are you using the temporal to read the eternal?
    - How blessed to let God set the agenda, and humbly follow Christ to glory. Will You?

Application Questions:

* What drives the doubt in your life? In what ways have you chosen to overlook the compassion of Christ that is given to *you*?
* If John had expressed his doubt to you about Jesus, how would you have counseled him?
* Jesus didn’t condemn the doubters. Why do we? Notably, in what ways do you condemn yourself? What would it look like to take those condemning thoughts to Jesus?