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?