

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

UNIT 24

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS



MATTHEW; LUKE



MEMORY VERSES

“What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

–Luke 11:11-13



HE IS THE MESSIAH

CORE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 11:2-10,16-19

CONTEXT

John the Baptist was raised up by God as the prophet promised to precede the coming of the Messiah. He was to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord by calling them to repentance and baptizing them as they confessed their sins. He fulfilled this mission as he pointed to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. But as John's ministry decreased, he was arrested and imprisoned for speaking out against Herod's unlawful marriage. This led to some questions about Jesus's increasing ministry: Was Jesus indeed the Messiah? So John reached out from prison for an answer.

KEY CONCEPT

Jesus's actions and the fruit of His actions prove that He is the Messiah.

As you examine Matthew 11:2-10,16-19:

- Identify the evidence that proves Jesus is the promised Messiah.
- Analyze the foolish standards by which people reject Jesus as the Messiah.



TIMELINE

John the Baptist Calls People to Repentance in Preparation for Jesus and Baptizes Jesus (Matthew 3:1-17)

John Is Arrested for Confronting King Herod (Matthew 4:12)

SESSION STUDY:
John the Baptist Seeks Confirmation That Jesus Is the Messiah (Matthew 11:1-19)

John Scales Back His Ministry (John 3:22-36)

Jesus Delivers His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:29)

John Is Beheaded by King Herod (Matthew 14:1-12)

Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Matthew 10:1-15
- Day 2:** Matthew 10:16-42
- Day 3:** Matthew 11:1-15
- Day 4:** Matthew 11:16-24
- Day 5:** Matthew 11:25-30
- Day 6:** Psalm 149



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

MATTHEW 11:2-10

JESUS POINTED TO HIS ACTIONS AS EVIDENCE OF HIS MESSIAHSHIP.

Circle the actions of Jesus that validated His messiahship.

2 Now when John heard in prison what the Christ was doing, he sent a message through his disciples **3** and asked him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” **4** Jesus replied to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: **5** The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, **6** and blessed is the one who isn’t offended by me.” **7** As these men were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind? **8** What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? See, those who wear soft clothes are in royal palaces. **9** What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **10** This is the one about whom it is written: See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.”

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

SPECIAL REVELATION: Special revelation refers to God’s revealing Himself to humanity through historical events, His Word, and through Jesus Christ. Through special revelation, human beings learn about God’s character, His will, His purpose for creation, and His plan of redemption. Special revelation shows us the nature and character of God, and because God has revealed Himself in this way, we can know Him—through a saving relationship with Him in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Key Concept: Jesus's actions and the fruit of His actions prove that He is the Messiah.



When John the Baptist was first introduced, he was described as a bold, eccentric, humble man who boldly proclaimed that Jesus is the Messiah. Now John was in prison, and he questioned whether Jesus really was the One who was promised. It is possible that John was discouraged—he was in prison for confronting King Herod about his illicit marriage to his brother's wife (Luke 3:19-20). Perhaps John's unjust persecution was the cause of this doubt, but regardless of the motivation, John was not as sure about Jesus as he was at first.

Jesus's response was not a simple affirmation but a description of the evidence that would affirm to John that Jesus is the Christ. All the miracles that Jesus performed up to that point should have made it abundantly clear to John and to anyone else that Jesus is God the Son. The voice of God, who spoke after Jesus's baptism, spoke the undeniable truth—Jesus is God's Son, the Messiah, and God is well-pleased with Him (Matthew 3:17).

What evidence from your life proves that Jesus is who He says He is?

Jesus not only pointed to the miracles that gave evidence that He is the Messiah, but He also pointed back to John as evidence of fulfilled prophecy. Jesus did not defend Himself but instead defended John the Baptist and affirmed his role in the coming of the Christ. Jesus referenced Malachi 3:1, a clear prophecy of the forerunner for the Christ, and He identified John as this forerunner.

Jesus declared that John the Baptist was not just a prophet of something that would happen later, but he was the one who announced that the promises of God were being fulfilled at that time in Jesus. John's doubt did not discredit his ministry. John was human, and as such, he needed Jesus's help clarifying the truth. Jesus affirmed John's ministry and affirmed His own messiahship.

Why are the Old Testament prophecies important for understanding the New Testament?

PERSONAL PREPARATION

MATTHEW 11:16-19

REJECTING JESUS IS FOOLISH AS THE FRUIT OF HIS WORK IS EVIDENT.

Contrast the ways the people viewed John the Baptist and Jesus: underline what they said about John, and circle what they said about Jesus.

16 "To what should I compare this generation? It's like children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to other children: **17** We played the flute for you, but you didn't dance; we sang a lament, but you didn't mourn! **18** For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' **19** The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Though the evidence of Jesus and His works is historically accurate, many will reject Him as Lord and Savior (Matthew 7:13). Still, we have a mission to share the gospel with others to give people the opportunity to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Key Concept: Jesus's actions and the fruit of His actions prove that He is the Messiah.



In this section, Jesus condemned the people for being stubborn and refusing to listen to God's message. He compared them to children complaining that games were not going their way in verses 16-17.

Jesus then drew a comparison between Himself and John. He remarked that John was not an indulgent man, that he did not eat or drink. John often fasted and practiced strict dietary habits (9:14). The people criticized John for being too strict and harsh, saying he was possessed by a demon. Jesus, on the other hand, came eating and drinking—He did not fast like John did, and He ate meals with sinners (9:10-15). Because of this, Jesus was accused of being a drunkard and a glutton! For both John and Jesus, the people complained about their lifestyles, more concerned with critiquing their eating habits than with listening to their message, witnessing their miracles, or following their lead.

How might your complaints be keeping you from obeying Jesus?

Because the people were so caught up in this attitude of criticism, they rejected both John and Jesus. So Jesus exposed how fickle their hearts were. Regardless of how the Messiah was revealed to them, whether through John's proclamations or Jesus's teachings and miracles, the people rejected the truth.

How can we confront our own fickle, unbelieving generation with the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

In conclusion, Jesus declared what the people needed to hear, making a statement about wisdom. The people in the crowd would have remembered the numerous references in the book of Proverbs to wisdom calling in the streets. Proverbs often personified wisdom as a woman speaking to her children and pleading with them to listen to her. Here Jesus called the people to listen to what He was saying and to understand who He is. Since Jesus is "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24), when He stated that "wisdom is vindicated by her deeds" (Matthew 11:19), He meant that His and John's ministry would be vindicated by their actions.

ARE YOU THE ONE?

Read the passages below and prepare a response for John's disciples to bring back to him.

CASE STUDY: Imagine you are one of John the Baptist's disciples. You've been sent to Jesus with John's question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" You've just heard Jesus point to His works as proof of His identity. Now you must process what you have heard.

MATTHEW 11:5-6

ISAIAH 35:5-6

ISAIAH 61:1-2

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL JOHN THE BAPTIST IN PRISON?

Why do you think Jesus chose to let His works speak for Him instead of giving a direct yes?

How does Jesus's evidence comfort us when we face doubts about who Jesus is?

Key Concept: Jesus's actions and the fruit of His actions prove that He is the Messiah.



HEAD

How does the truth of Jesus in Scripture address your doubts and questions in life?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 149. Praise God for the salvation and justice He provides for His people. Reflect on the many ways God has provided for you and given you joy (vv. 1-5). Ask God to strengthen you to exalt Jesus and to proclaim His gospel in the world without doubts or fears (vv. 6-9).



HEART

What struggles are you facing that call for you to turn to Jesus as He is revealed in Scripture?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

What actions will you do this week to help others see the wisdom of God in Jesus and His gospel?

