

“Christ’s Doing” Matthew 11:1-19 1/08/17

Today, we’d like to see the title of the “Christ’s Doing” in Matthew 11:1-19.

To Online Word’s people, we’d like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 3, “and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”” why did John the Baptist ask this kind of question? And what should we do if we face unexpected difficulty?

Q2. In verse 11, ““Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he,” what does it mean?

Q3. In verse 14, “And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” what does it mean?

(Background)

(In Matthew 10:1, 5-8) ¹And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. ⁶But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. (preaching the 1st coming Christ[Messiah] & healing)

<p>¹ Now it came to pass, when <u>Jesus</u> finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there <u>to teach and to preach in their cities.</u></p> <p>² And when <u>John had heard in prison</u> about the works of Christ, he sent <u>two of his disciples</u></p>	<p>1= Jesus... to teach and to preach in their cities (following the advance teams of His disciples)</p> <p>2= John...in prison (John the Baptist's rebuking the Herod Antipas' immorality to take his brother Philip's wife ¹Mat 14:3-5) ; two of his disciples (John's disciples)</p>
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¹ Mat 14:3-5 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him. and put *him* in prison for the sake of Herodias. his brother Philip's wife. ⁴ Because John had said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” ⁵ And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

<p>³ and said to Him, "<u>Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?</u>"</p>	<p>3=Q1 Are You the Coming One (Christ to establish the Kingdom of Heaven to remove the Roman Empire, as the multitude thought so); or do we look for another (do we look for another Christ because Jesus didn't release John as the Messenger of Christ immediately from the prison – John's doubt of faith in Jesus as the Christ – despite previous faith ²Mat 3:13-17; John 1:23-27; John 1:32-36; John 3:27-30 – when we face difficulty, how should we do? Trust in the Lord, Pray always against devil's work in the doubt of faith ³Mat 17:21, and search the evidence in the Bible, see verse 5 -- Power of prayer; of the word of God; of the Spirit; & of the Blood of Jesus)</p>
<p>⁴ <u>Jesus answered</u> and said to them, "Go and tell John <u>the things which you hear and see</u>:"</p>	<p>4= Jesus answered (to his disciples for John indirectly by pointing to His doing as Christ according to the prophecy in OT, rather than by directly saying, 'Yes, I am the Christ!'); the things why you hear and see (according to the prophecy)</p>
<p>⁵ <u>The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.</u></p>	<p>5=The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed... the deaf hear; the dead are raised up.. the poor (in Spirit, i.e., humble one or repenting one – ready heart to accept the gospel) have gospel preached to them (according to ⁴Isaiah 35:5-6)</p>
<p>⁶ <u>And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.</u>"</p>	<p>6= blessed is he who is not offended because of Me (blessed is he who is not stumbled because of his doubt of the faith in Me as Christ)</p>
<p>⁷ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes <u>concerning John</u>: "What did you go out <u>into the wilderness</u> to see? A reed shaken by the wind?"</p>	<p>7= concerning John (forerunner or messenger the make the multitude's heart ready to accept Christ before 1st coming Christ ⁵Mat 3:1-6)</p>

² Mat 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried* to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be* so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ; John 1:23-27 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the LORD,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴ Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ²⁵ And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." ; John 1:32-36 ³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." ³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" ; John 3:27-30 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' ²⁹ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. ³⁰ He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

³ Mat 17:21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (disciples couldn't cast away devils for unbelief.)

⁴ Isaiah 35:5-6 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

⁵ Mat 3:1-6 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one

<p>⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed <u>in soft garments</u>? Indeed, those who wear <u>soft clothing are in kings' houses</u>.</p> <p>⁹ But what did you go out to see? <u>A prophet</u>? <u>Yes</u>, I say to you, and <u>more than a prophet</u>.</p> <p>¹⁰ For this is <i>he</i> of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send <u>My messenger</u> before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'</p> <p>¹¹ "Assuredly, I say to you, <u>among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he</u>.</p> <p>¹² And <u>from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force</u>.</p>	<p>8= soft garments? (like silk clothing, not clothing in camel's hair); soft clothing are in king's houses (in the king's house, not in the king's prison)</p> <p>9= A prophet? Yes (John the Baptist is a Prophet); more than a prophet (more than a mere prophet in OT)</p> <p>10= My messenger before Your face (John is the messenger or forerunner before Christ, but before 1st coming Christ, not the 2nd coming Christ ⁶Isaiah 40:4; Malachi 3:1)</p> <p>11=Q2 among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist (John the Baptist was the greatest one in OT; John the Baptist was a messenger just 6 months before coming Christ, most close to Christ in OT, e.g., greater than Samuel, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Daniel, etc.); but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he (Those who received God's love for all sinners through the death of Jesus Christ ⁷John 3:16; every Christian in whom Christ lives, ⁸Gal 2:20, i.e., every children of God in NT, is greater than John the Baptist)</p> <p>12= from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence (John in prison; Jesus crucified; many apostles martyred; today more than 1,000 Christians martyred in Middle East & Africa in 2016 but the fast growing churches in Iran); and the violent take it by force (the violent take the kingdom of heaven by force – the violent causes expanding the kingdom of heaven by force, i.e., a great persecution, then scattered, and everywhere preaching; e.g. refugees in Germany – encouragement really to press toward the kingdom of heaven; to preach and teach anytime even through persecution ⁹Acts 8:1, 4; 2 Tim 4:2)</p>
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crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁶ *Isaiah 40:4* Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low: The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;: *Malachi 3:1* "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

⁷ *John 3:16* For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

⁸ *Gal 2:20* I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

⁹ *Acts 8:1, 4* Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem: and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

⁴ Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.: *2 Tim 4:2* Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

<p>¹³ <u>For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.</u></p> <p>¹⁴ <u>And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.</u> ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!</p> <p>¹⁶ “But to what shall I liken <u>this generation</u>? It is <u>like children</u> sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions,</p> <p>¹⁷ and saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.’</p> <p>¹⁸ <u>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’</u></p> <p>¹⁹ <u>The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But <u>wisdom is justified by her children.</u>”</u></p>	<p>13= For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John (All of OT up until John)</p> <p>14=Q3 he is Elijah (a type or a figure of Elijah, not Elijah per se – play a role of messenger / forerunner before the 1st coming Christ; but Elijah per se before the 2nd coming Christ ¹⁰Mat 17:11-13; John 1:21 vs. Mal 4:5; Rev 11:3)</p> <p>16= this generation (proud generation; like children (humble children, those who have humble heart to accept Christ ¹¹Mat 18:3-4 vs. 1 Cor 14:20)</p> <p>17= We played the flute for you, And you did not dance (we piped for you but you did not respond to dance); We mourned to you, And you did not lament (no response; no ready to accept Christ humbly)</p> <p>18= John came neither eating nor drinking (ascetic); they say (the multitude say); He has a demon.</p> <p>19= The Son of Man came eating and drinking (because of joyful time, not mourning time, that’s a wise way like children ¹²Mat 9:15); wisdom is justified by her children (wisdom is proved right by wisdom’s children – the wisdom is proved right by Christ’s doing to eat and drink with sinners like Children’s doing [NIV But wisdom is proved right by her deeds])</p>
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¹⁰ Mat 17:11-13 Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. ¹² But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” ¹³ Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist; John 1:21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” vs. Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

¹¹ Mat 18:3-4 and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. vs. 1 Cor 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

¹² Mat 9:15 And Jesus said to them, “Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.