

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

Part 1: John The Baptist On A Bad Day

JOHN THE BAPTIST HITS A HARD PLACE

- Prison took a toll on John (*Matthew 11:1-6 NKJV*)
 1. Difficult places can breed doubtful thoughts
 2. Difficult places can breed questioning thoughts
- Jesus answers John's questions
 1. He referenced the Scriptures first
 2. He encouraged John to not be offended
- Jesus spoke about John (*Matthew 11:7-11 NKJV*)
 1. Not - can you believe this guy? He did not call John out
 2. Jesus did not define John by his response in a low state
 3. Referenced John from Scripture
 4. Jesus' words elevated John

LEARNING FROM JOHN'S ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

- The Scriptures are the first place we go for answers
 1. They show us who God / Jesus / the Holy Spirit are
 2. The Scriptures shape our relationship with God
 3. In a changing world, His word stands firm (*Psalms 119:89-90 NKJV*)
- Be on guard against discouragement
 1. There are things we can control even in difficult times
 2. We can't keep looking at the problems and get past them (*Psalms 119:49-50 NKJV*)
- Be on guard against being offended
 1. Discouragement and offense often run together
 2. Offense ruins fellowship - Jesus said avoid it to be blessed
- God sees us better than we see us
 1. He does not call us losers (*Lamentations 3:21-23 NKJV*)
 2. We are still His children, His creations