

INTRODUCTION

- * "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew." Matthew was a Jewish man writing to a Jewish audience and giving testimony regarding the life and ministry of the Messiah who had been foretold by many of the Jewish prophets.
- * After Jesus presented the Standards of His Kingdom, He displayed His authority in the physical, psychological and spiritual realms. He then deputized His disciples delegating them to take the Kingdom message throughout the cities of Israel
- * Today, we are given an important glimpse into the intents and thoughts of John the Baptist, his disciples and three cities where Jesus ministered frequently.
- * The primary teaching point in this passage is a contrast of doubt. Doubt can stem from diverse origins. It is the belief behind the doubt that truly is the key. Some may doubt due to misconceptions, confusion or bewilderment. Yet others doubt as a result of rejection and rebellion. Even the strongest of believers may have moments where perplexity and confusion can cause a moment of doubt. In those moments, we need to go back to what we know to be true.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE DOUBT OF C _____ (v. 1-19)

A. The I _____ Of "John"

1. THE M _____ OF THE INQUIRY
2. THE M _____ OF THE INQUIRY

B. The I _____ Of Jesus

1. TO THE DISCIPLES
 - a. The A _____ of C _____
 - b. The P _____ of T _____
2. TO THE CROWD
 - a. Regarding the I _____ of John (v. 7-10, 13-15)
 - b. Regarding the I _____ of John (v. 11)
 - i. HE IS THE G _____ AMONGST MEN (v. 11)
 - ii. HE IS THE L _____ IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (v. 11)

II. THE DOUBT OF R _____ (v. 20-24)

INTROSPECTION

- * ARE THERE AREAS OF "THEOLOGY" THAT DO NOT MAKE SENSE TO YOU?
- * WHAT IS THE BASIS OF "TRUTH" FOR YOU? TO WHAT DO YOU TURN AS YOUR "FINAL" WORD?
- * WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Where is the "fine line" between honest questioning and rebellious rejecting? How does that look in a church gathering?
- * Read Hebrews 5:12-14, Ephesians 4:11-16, 2 Timothy 2:15, and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How do these passages apply to the previous discussion?
- * Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and Proverbs 27:17. What is the difference between discussing and disputing?