

Matthew 11:2-11 “The Question that drops with a Dull Thud”

Read Matthew 3:1-12; 11:2-11; 14:1-12. This is the full account of the story of John the Baptist which I think will help us understand the larger picture out of which his question arises.

1. (Matthew 3) What were John the Baptist's expectations of Messiah Jesus?
2. (Matthew 11, 14) What do you think lies behind John's question? Do similar realities lie under our own doubts?

Read Isaiah 35:4-6, Isaiah 61:1-3

3. Jesus' answer to John's question is pointing to two passages from Isaiah that speak of Messiah's reign. God's judgement and vengeance plays an important role in each of these passages. Why do you think Jesus makes no mention of it in his response to John?
4. In his doubt Jesus wants John to focus on Him. "Blessed is the one who is not offended by me." Where do you find Jesus most offensive? How can sitting with that offense, working through that offense, lead to a blessedness borne of deepening trust?
5. Jesus praises John the Baptist despite his doubt. What does this tell us about doubt in the life of faith?
6. Jesus affirms that the least in the kingdom is greater than John the Baptist. What does this tell us about who we are in Jesus?