

A QUESTION FROM JOHN THE BAPTIST
(Matthew 11:1-6)

- I. EXPANDING Jesus' Ministry (Matt. 11:1)
 - A. Jesus has SENT His disciples into PERSONAL ministry
 - B. Jesus CONTINUED to travel through GALILEE
 - 1. He may have been ALONE or ACCOMPANIED by OTHERS
 - 2. He kept TEACHING and PREACHING

- II. QUESTIONING Jesus' Identity (Matt. 11:2-3)
 - A. John was in PRISON
 - 1. He had DENOUNCED Herod's ADULTEROUS marriage to his brother's WIFE (Matt. 14:3-4)
 - 2. He had his disciples OBSERVING and REPORTING Jesus' ministry (cf. Matt. 9:10, 14; Luke 7:18)
 - B. John KNEW who Jesus WAS (cf. John 1:29-30, 36; 3:27-36)
 - 1. He had introduced Him as "the LAMB of GOD"
 - 2. He had declared "He must INCREASE, but I must DECREASE"
 - 3. He had TRUSTED Him as his SAVIOR

- C. John asked if JESUS was the EXPECTED ONE
 - 1. Perhaps prompted by DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES
 - 2. Perhaps prompted by INCOMPLETE REVELATION
 - 3. Perhaps prompted by UNFULFILLED EXPECTATIONS
 - a. Jesus hadn't ESTABLISHED His KINGDOM
 - b. Jesus hadn't RELIEVED all SUFFERING
 - c. Jesus hadn't ENFORCED God's JUSTICE
 - 4. Definitely directed to the RIGHT SOURCE

III. ANSWERING John's Inquiry (Matt. 11:4-6)

- A. He reminded them of EVIDENCE they had SEEN and HEARD
- B. He provided NEW EVIDENCE for CONFIRMATION (cf. Luke 7:20-21)
- C. He gently CHIDED him by pronouncing blessing upon "he who keeps from STUMBLING over ME" (cf. 11:7-11)
 - 1. May have meant, "Don't DOUBT what you know to be TRUE"
 - 2. May have meant, "Don't DEMAND what you want Me to DO"