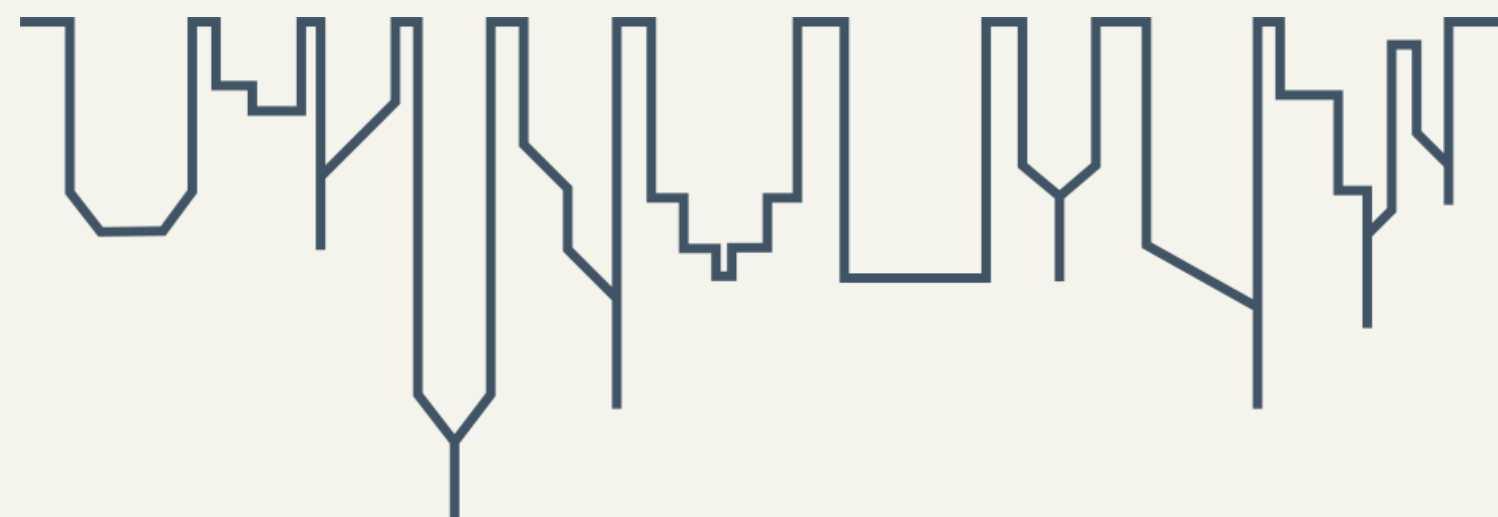




UPSIDE DOWN

Kingdom

A Study through the Book of Matthew



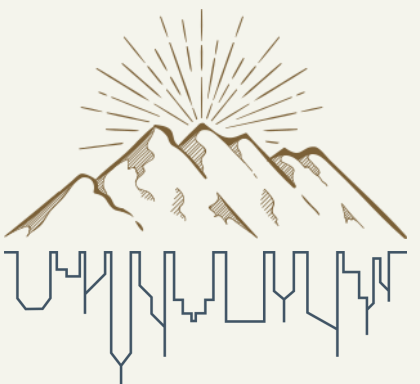
What do we do when God does not meet our expectations?

1. Ask God about it (Matthew 11:1-5)



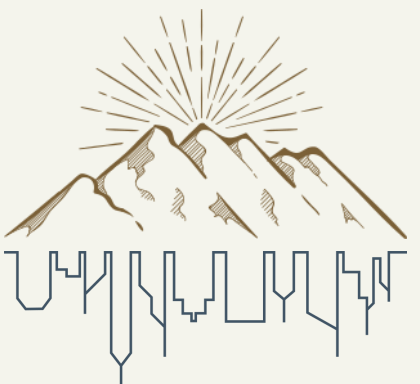
Matthew 11:1-5 (NIV)

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. 2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” 4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.



John declared that...

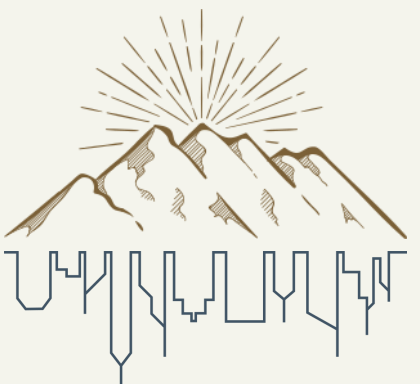
- Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29)
- Jesus should baptize him (Matthew 3:14)
- He is not worthy to tie Jesus' sandals (John 1:27)



Matthew 3:10 & 12 (NIV)

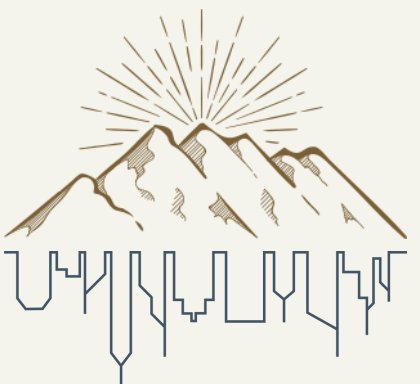
10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”



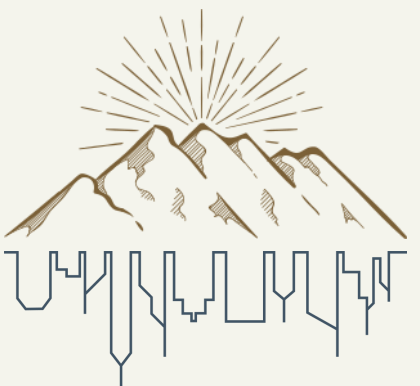
James 1:5 (NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.



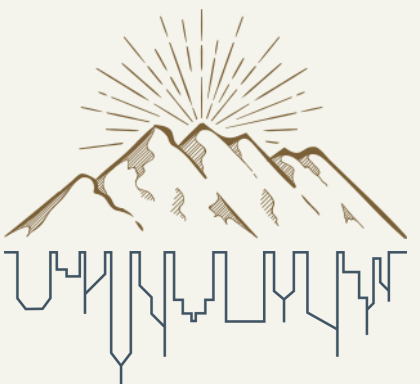
How Jesus Responds to John's Doubts

1. Jesus shows something



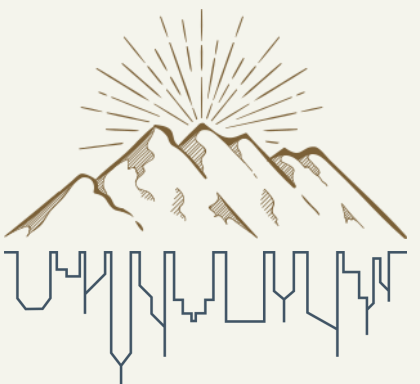
Predictions of the Messiah in the OT

- The blind see (Isa. 35:5, Isaiah 29:18-19)
- The lame walk (Isa. 35:6)
- The deaf hear (Isa. 35:5, Isaiah 29:18-19)
- The poor are preached to (Isaiah 61:1, Isaiah 29:18-19)
- The dead are raised up (bonus)



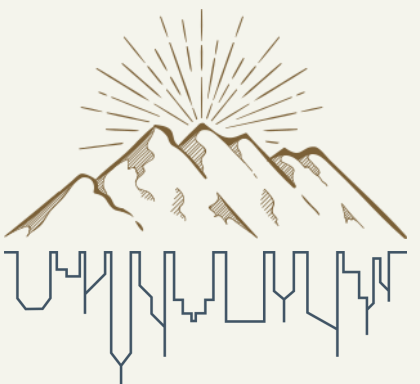
What do we do when God does not meet our expectations?

1. Ask God About It (Matthew 11:1-5)
2. Don't Stumble (Matthew 11:6)



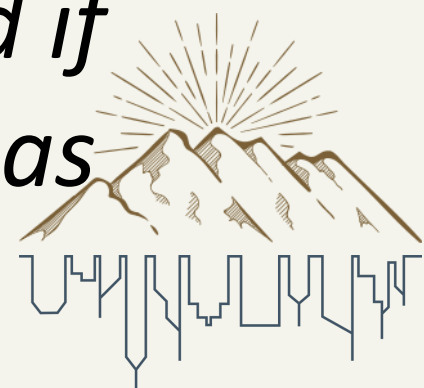
What do we do when God does not meet our expectations?

1. Ask God About It (Matthew 11:1-5)
2. Don't Stumble (Matthew 11:6)
3. Be Greatful (Matthew 11:7-15)



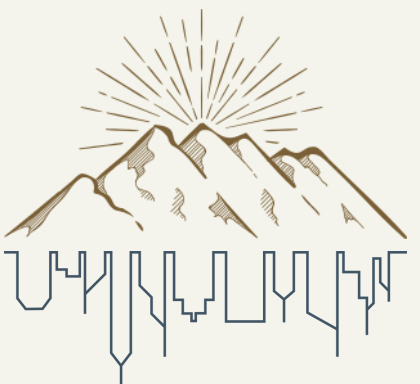
Matthew 11:7-15 (NIV)

*As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11 **Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.** 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 Whoever has*



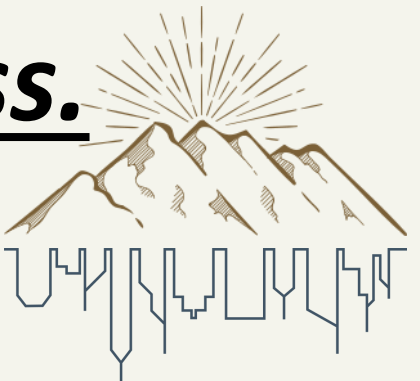
Ephesians 5:25-27(NLT)

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.



John 3:26-30 (NIV)

“Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.” 27 John replied, “No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. 28 You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’ 29 **It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom’s friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows.** Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. 30 **He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.**

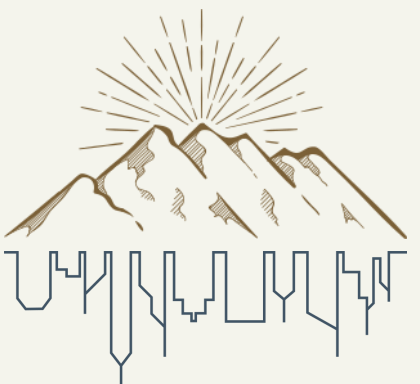


*John the Baptist announced the kingdom as being at hand, but believers today have the greater position and privilege of being **citizens of the kingdom!** All believers today are **members of the Church, the Body and Bride of Christ.** And, unlike John the Baptist, **the Holy Spirit indwells all believers today.** So a person who is least in the kingdom of heaven today is greater than John the Baptist in position and privilege.*



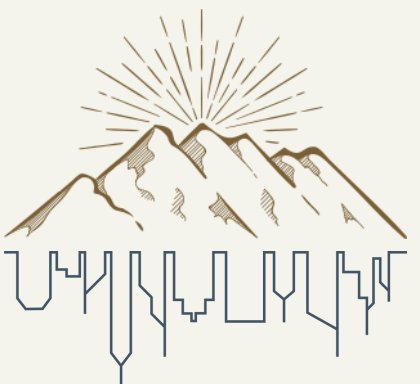
Matthew 11:16-19 (NIV)

“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: 17 “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”



We should always be reminded that we **come to receive God on His terms, not ours.** God is much bigger than any image we have of Him.

(Rooted Curriculum)



What do we do when God does not meet our expectations?

1. Ask God About It (Matthew 11:1-5)
2. Don't Stumble (Matthew 11:6)
3. Be Greatful (Matthew 11:7-15)
4. Make a Choice (Matthew 11:16-19)

