



Sermon Notes: “When Faithful Doesn’t Make Sense”

Matthew 11:1-15

3.8.26

SEARCHING FOR CLARITY (vv. 1-3)

- The deepest doubts often come from the deepest commitments.
- The real question is not about God’s existence — it is about God’s methods.

JESUS DRAWS CLOSER (vv. 4-10)

- Jesus doesn’t punish doubt — He meets it with evidence.
- When we’re honest with God about our questions, it actually brings us closer to Him — not further away.
- Jesus honors what the world overlooks.

THE VIEW FROM THE EDGE (VV. 11-15)

- You can see the Kingdom and still not step into it. The edge is the most dangerous place to stay.

So What?

Jesus doesn’t demand certainty. He invites honesty.

What edge are you standing on?

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: Have you ever had something not go the way you expected — even though you did everything right? What happened, and how did it make you feel?

REVIEW:

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 11:1-3

- John the Baptist was the one who baptized Jesus, heard God's voice, and saw the Spirit descend. He gave up everything for this mission. And now he's in prison for being faithful. What does it tell us that even John — with all that firsthand experience — still wrestled with confusion?
 - Darin said, "The deepest doubts come from the deepest commitments." Do you agree? Why do the things we care about most tend to produce the hardest questions?
 - Have you ever been in a season where you were "wrestling with God" rather than "walking away from God"? What did that look like for you? How can we help each other recognize the difference?
-

READ: Matthew 11:4-10

- Jesus didn't rebuke John. He didn't express disappointment. He responded with evidence. What does that tell us about how Jesus handles our honest questions?
 - Jesus pointed John back to Isaiah 35 and 61 — prophecies John already knew. Sometimes the evidence we need isn't new; it's been in God's Word all along. How can we build a habit of going back to Scripture when doubt creeps in, rather than pulling away?
 - Darin said, "God already knows what's in your heart. Keeping your doubts to yourself doesn't protect your faith — it keeps you distant from Him." Why is it so hard to be honest with God about our doubts? What would it look like to actually lay them at His feet this week?
-

DEPLOY:

Matthew 11:11-15

- **Jesus says in verse 15:** "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!" That's an urgent invitation. What is God inviting you to step into right now that you've been looking at from a distance?

1. Be Honest With God. Spend 10 minutes this week praying with total honesty. Don't edit yourself. He already knows — bringing it to Him is what draws you closer.

2. Go Back to the Evidence. Read Isaiah 35:5-6 and Isaiah 61:1. Write down moments where God proved Himself faithful — even when His methods surprised you.

3. Step Off the Edge. Name the step of faith you've been standing at the edge of. Share it with someone in your group. Take one step this week.

4. Encourage Someone Who's Wrestling. Reach out to someone in a "John the Baptist" season — faithful but confused. Remind them that wrestling with God is not the same as walking away.

Don't Forget:

- **Night of Prayer March 17th:** 7pm-8pm
 - **AMOR Team Leaving** - March 20th
 - **Emily Sheahan Gift-matching day** – March 20th
 - **Potluck** March 29th
-

Prayer:

Father,

Thank You that our questions draw us closer to You, not further away. Forgive us for hiding our doubts behind performance. For those in a season where faith doesn't make sense — remind them that You see their faithfulness. Give us courage to be honest and boldness to step in. We trust You — even when it doesn't make sense.

In Jesus' name, Amen.