

c) "Are you what we were hoping for?"

DISCIPLE 1.0: The Gospel Plays in Stereo

Jerry Cisar — August 18, 2019

Text: Matthew 11:1-15

Introduction

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid
to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- What do you think is meant by the analogy of hearing the Gospel in stereo? (I.e. that if we only hear one channel, we may miss the message.)
- What, if any, experiences have caused you to question if Jesus was what you had hoped for? Have you resolved this?
- Compare John's expectations of Jesus laid out in Matthew 3:10-12 with what John and others had heard and seen?
- What would Jesus' answer which he sent back to John have meant to John? Explain.
- How does this theme of hearing and seeing tie this section together?
- How does Jesus turn the people's attention away from John the spectacle to John the messenger and the message? (From seeing to hearing?)
- Why do you think Jesus uses the "negative" beatitude: "Blessed is the One who does not fall away on account of Me"?
- What, at least from a human perspective, is missing from 11:12? What would be expected that is missing?

I. A Monophonic Question (11:2-3)

- A. Are you the one who is to come?
 - i. That's an odd question, isn't it? (Matt. 3:11)
 - ii. Did John battle doubts?
 - a) In the language of John's gospel we could say that all disciples are Twins... Didymuses who believe and doubt.
 - b) "When they saw him, they worshiped him and they doubted." (Matt. 28:17 lit.)
- B. Are we much different than John the Baptist?
- C. Why is John questioning whether or not Jesus is the One?
 - i. John's expectation (Mt. 3:7-11)
 - a) *Wrath is coming!*
 - b) *Trees are about to be cut down!*

c) Jesus is **more powerful** than John (Mt. 3:11).

ii. John wasn't having an emotional crisis but a theological one!

II. A Stereophonic Answer (11:4-6)

A. "Hear and See"

i. It's worth noting that Matthew reverses the typical order from "see and hear" to "hear and see."

ii. F.D. Bruner: "In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught 'with authority,' but what he taught seemed more calculated to put axes in the hands of his opponents than in the hands of his disciples...."

B. Jesus answers from the Old Testament.

i. Isaiah 35:4-6

ii. Isaiah 61:1-2

C. The poor have the good news preached to them.

i. That was the great reversal!

ii. This turns world-power upside down! (Luke 1:51-53)

D. "Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." (6)

III. Pay Attention to How You Hear (11:7-15)

A. A Play on words: "hear and see." (v4); see and hear (vv7-15)!

B. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

i. Possibility #1: *A reed swayed by the wind?*

ii. Possibility #2: *A man dressed in fine clothes?*

iii. Possibility #3: A prophet?

iv. Jesus has turned their attention away from the spectacle and to the message (what they hear).

C. Listen closely!

i. Who is the least in the Kingdom?

a) Matthew 20:26-28

b) Matthew 25:37-40

ii. The coming of the Messiah meant suffering!

a) The kingdom is subjected to violence. The violent raid the kingdom. But what do those in the Kingdom do?

b) While the world and its kingdoms continue to try to conquer more through violence, Jesus will continue to give attention to the blind, the lame, the lepers, the deaf, the dead, and the poor.