

## DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

(Matthew 11:2-11)

Intro: Are you the one who is to come?  
-Or are we to wait for another?

John the Baptizer's question.  
-Church's question.  
-Our question.

### I. Are You The One?

#### A. John Wondered.

##### 1. Shouldn't John have known?

###### a. John was Jesus' advance man.

-John's mission:

#Prepare the way for Jesus.

#He must have known whom he was working for.

-When I was in graduate school.

#At Luther Seminary.

\*In St. Paul, Minnesota.

#We lived in a 24-story high-rise apartment building.

\*In the Midway area of St. Paul.

+Midway between:

=Downtown St. Paul.

=Downtown Minneapolis.

#While we were there.

\*Former Senator and Vice-President Hubert Humphrey died.

\*His funeral was in a church.

+Not too far from where we lived.

\*Then-President Jimmy Carter attended the funeral.

#Several days before the funeral.

\*Secret Service invaded our building.

+Setting up communications equipment.

=On the roof of our building.

+So that there could be continuous communication.

=Between:

-Washington, D.C.

-Air Force One.

#Parked at the airport.

-Presidential limousine.

- + I don't know this for a fact.
  - = But my guess is:
    - Today that might all be done by satellite.
- \* Secret Service was the President's advance team.
  - + Certainly they knew:
    - = What they doing.
    - = For whom they were working.
- John was Jesus' advance man.
  - # Certainly he knew:
    - \* What he was doing.
    - \* For whom he was working..
- b. John must have known who Jesus was.
  - When Jesus came to John to be Baptized.
    - # John protested.
    - # He said:
      - \* "This is backwards."
      - \* "You should be baptizing me."
      - + "Not the other way around."
      - = Matthew 3: 13-15.
  - In John's Gospel.
    - # John said of Jesus:
      - \* "Behold the Lamb of God,
      - + Who takes away the sin of the world."
      - = John 1: 29.
      - \* "He must increase, but I must decrease."
      - + John 3: 30.
  - Certainly John must have known who Jesus was.
- c. John was family.
  - Jesus' mother, Mary.
  - John's mother, Elizabeth.
    - # Related.
  - John and Jesus.
    - # Second cousins.
    - # First cousins, once removed.
  - John had a better than average chance.
    - # Knowing who Jesus was.
- 2. So why did John have to ask, "Are you the one?"
  - a. Where was John?
    - John was in prison.
  - b. Why?
    - Because he had dared to criticize the king.
      - # Herod had married his brother's wife.
    - John had said:
      - # "That's a no-no."

- Herod had had John arrested.
  - #According to the Jewish historian Josephus.
  - \*John was in a place called Machaerus.
  - +On the east side of the Dead Sea.
  - #Eventually John would lose his head (Matthew 14: 3-12).
- c. In last week's gospel.
  - John had said:
    - #"I baptize you with water for repentance."
    - #"One who is more powerful than I is coming."
    - #"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
    - \*Matthew 3: 11.
  - So John must have wondered:
    - #"Where's the power?"
    - #"Where's the fire?"
    - #"Where's the fire power?"
    - \*"I could use some pyrotechnics right about now."
    - + "To blast me out of this cell."
    - #"I'm on your side."
    - #"I'm one of the good guys."
    - #"What about me?"
    - #"Are you the one who is to come?"
    - \*"Or are we to wait for another?"
- d. John's expectations.
  - Of how the Messiah should function.
  - #Were not being met.

## B. Early Church Might Have Wondered The Same Thing.

1. Matthew's Gospel.
  - a. Written to Jewish-Christians.
  - b. Written at a time when the Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed.
    - By the Romans.
2. Those who expected:
  - a. Messiah would be a political or military leader.
  - b. Messiah would liberate them from Roman rule.
    - Disappointed.
    - Wondered:
      - #"Are you the one?"
3. Even as they believed:
  - a. Jesus had been raised from the dead.
    - After having been:
      - #Crucified.
      - #Buried.
  - b. Might have wondered:
    - "Are you the one?"

C. Maybe We Wonder.

1. We also believe:
  - a. Jesus has been raised from the dead.
  - b. His resurrection promises:
    - Forgiveness of sins.
    - Life eternal.
2. But yet we wonder.
  - a. How come there is still?
    - Sin.
    - War.
    - Crime.
    - Poverty.
    - Hunger.
    - Drug abuse.
    - Addiction.
    - Adultery.
    - Divorce.
    - Cancer.
    - Alzheimer's.
  - b. How come there is still a problem?
    - Having enough money for our budget.
    - Having enough volunteers for all of our slots.
      - #We're the good guys and gals.
      - #We're on Gods' side.
    - So how come?
      - #Life is so hard.
      - #Life in the church is so hard.
3. Could it be that our expectations?
  - a. For our Messiah.
  - b. For our Savior.
  - c. For our Jesus.
    - Not being met.
4. We wonder.
  - a. With John.
  - b. With the early church.
    - “Are you the one?”
    - “Are you really the one?”

II. Jesus Responds.

- A. To:
1. John.
  2. Church.
  3. Us.

- B. Do You See What I See?
1. Tell John what you see and hear.
    - a. Blind receive their sight.
    - b. Lame walk.
    - c. Lepers are cleansed.
    - d. Deaf hear.
    - e. Dead are raised.
    - f. Poor receive good news.
      - Summary of what has been recorded.  
#Matthew 8-9.
      - Signs of the Messianic Age.  
#Isaiah 35:5-6
  2. We might respond.
    - a. Say:
      - “No.”
      - “I haven’t seen these things.”
      - “I certainly haven’t seen any dead people raised back to life.”
    - b. Even when we have patience.
      - As James 5: 7-10 encourages us.  
#We may never see these things.
    - c. When they do happen:
      - Sight or hearing is restored.
      - Lame walk.  
#We might be tempted to say:  
\*“They had a good:”  
+Doctor.  
+Surgeon.  
+Therapist.
  3. Do you see what I see?
    - a. Do you see that this might be the very way in which God chooses to act?
    - b. I may have told you this story before.
      - When I was a hospital chaplain.  
#I was visiting a patient.  
\*Late one afternoon.  
\*At St. Louis Regional Medical Center.  
#Patient was scheduled for surgery.  
\*Next morning.  
#As we were visiting.  
\*Surgeon came in.  
#Explained the procedure.  
\*Risks.  
\*Anticipated outcome.  
#Got the patient to sign:  
\*Informed Consent form.

- \*Before he left the bedside.
  - #He asked the patient if she was afraid.
- #Woman replied:
  - \*"No, doctor, I'm not afraid."
  - \*"I know you will be holding the instruments,"
  - \*"But God will be doing the operation."
- #If we had gone into the operating room the next morning.
  - \*What would we have seen?
    - +Patient.
    - +Surgeon.
    - +Anesthesiologist.
    - +Scrub nurses.
  - \*It would have only been with eyes of faith.
    - +We would have seen the hand of God.
- 4. Do you see what I see?
  - a. Jesus asks.
  - b. Do you see with eyes of faith?
    - That I might not act:
      - #Where you expect.
      - #How you expect.
      - #When you expect.
      - #Through whom you expect.
  - c. In preparation for this morning I came across the story of Joshua Bell.
    - In January 2007.
      - #*Washington Post* videotaped Joshua Bell.
        - \*Playing his violin.
          - +At one of the Metro subway stops.
            - =In Washington, D.C.
      - #1000+ commuters.
        - \*Vast majority were too busy to stop.
        - \*Few did.
          - +Briefly.
          - +Throwing a few bills into his violin case.
        - \*No big deal.
          - +Just another day on the D.C. Metro.
      - #But it wasn't just an ordinary day.
      - Joshua Bell was not a typical street performer.
      - #When I was in:
        - \*Key West.
          - +Last year.
          - +Mallory Square.
            - =Lots of street performers.
              - Hoping for a few dollars in their buckets.

- \*New Orleans.
    - +Last month.
    - +Jackson Square in the French Quarter.
      - =Lots of street performers.
        - Hoping for a few dollars in their buckets.
  - #Joshua Bell is a world-renowned concert violinist.
    - \*He was playing a multi-million dollar Stradivarius.
      - +At the D.C. Metro stop.
    - \*Three days earlier.
      - +He had filled Boston's Symphony Hall.
        - =People paying \$100/seat.
          - To hear Bell play the same music.
            - #He was playing at the Metro stop.
- We don't expect:
  - #Concert violinist at the subway.
  - #Street performers in the symphony hall.
5. We may have our own expectations.
    - a. How God works.
    - b. Where God works.
    - c. When God works.
    - d. Through whom God works.
  6. Do you see what I see?
    - a. Presence of God.
      - When we fill out:
        - #Statement of Intent giving card.
        - #Time and Talent sheet.
    - b. Presence of God.
      - When we fill the Helping Hands grocery cart with food.
      - When we provide holiday dinners.
        - #For needy families.
      - When we deliver Angel Tree gifts.
        - #To children whose parents are incarcerated.
      - When we collect toiletries.
        - #For ex-offenders coming back into the community.
    - c. Presence of God.
      - When there is healing.
      - When there isn't healing.
      - When death does come.
        - #As we wrap our arms around:
          - \*Suffering.
          - \*Dying.
          - \*Grieving.

#With our:

\*Prayers.

\*Love.

\*Care.

d. Presence of God.

-Waters at the font.

-Bread and wine at the table.

-Virgin birth.

-Baby in a manger.

-Messiah on a cross.

-Open tomb on Easter morning.

Concl: What no one ever saw or heard,  
What no one ever thought could happen,  
Is the very thing God prepared for those who love him.  
-1 Corinthians 2:9.

Yes, Jesus is the one who is to come.

Do you see?

-Do you see with eyes of faith?

-Do you see what I see?