



## Dealing with Doubt 2 – *Misreading the Signs* {Andy Stanley}

### INTRODUCTION

Few would doubt that John the Baptist was committed to God. He lived out in the desert, eating locusts and wild honey, while preaching to all who would come to listen. He unflinchingly called people to repent of their sins (Matt 3:7-10), even challenging those in authority (Mark 6:17-20). He was the one the prophets foretold would prepare the way for the Savior (Matt 3:3; Isaiah 40:3). And yet, even John had his doubts. In this session we will discover what Jesus had to say to his own cousin, and how it applies to you and me when we are dealing with doubt.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 11:1-3. Sitting in a prison cell tends to change your perspective on things. John began to wonder about Jesus. After all, Jesus hadn't done anything to help him out of his imprisonment. Discuss how circumstances (both good and bad) can have an effect on our faith. How have circumstances had an effect on your faith?
2. Often there is something very selfish and self-centered about our doubt. We tend to doubt when God is inconvenient to our lifestyle and when God is inattentive to our happiness. Have you seen this in your life, or in the lives of others?
3. Read Matthew 11:4-5. Jesus' recommendation was that John look outside of his circumstances and reflect on all that Jesus had done and all that he was doing. Reflecting on your life, what has God done in the past that has displayed His faithfulness?
4. What is God doing in the world around you that displays His faithfulness?
5. Looking ahead, do you have a vision of what God could do in the future through you, which would display His faithfulness?
6. Read Matthew 11:6. There could be times when God's actions cause us to have doubt (because we can't see His master plan). When this occurs, what is your plan for dealing with doubt?

### THINK ABOUT IT

Reflect on your current situation and your current doubts about God. Is there any correlation? Have you confused your present situation with God's feelings about you? As you answer this question reflect on the deaths of both John the Baptist (Mark 6:14-29) and Jesus (Mark 15).

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Look outside your present circumstances and write down what God has done for you in the past. Write down all that He is currently doing in the world around you. Write down what God is going to do in your life in the future. How do your present doubts stack up to this list?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

“Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.” Matthew 11:6