

A Different King

Responding to Jesus Matthew 10:21—11:30

“He who has ears, let him hear.” Matthew 11:15

1. Read Matthew 10:21–42. Jesus paints a sobering picture of the opposition and hardships his disciples can expect. What promise does he make in verse 22?
2. Jesus encourages his disciples three times not to be afraid. (verses 26, 28, 31) What reasons does he give not to be afraid?
3. Most of us are not threatened with death or imprisonment for our faith. What does “disowning” (verse 33) Jesus look like for you? How can you “acknowledge” (verse 33) him instead? Pray.
4. Isaiah referred to Jesus as the Prince of Peace in Isaiah 1:6, but Jesus says here that he did not come to bring peace, but a sword. (verse 34) How do you reconcile these two statements?
5. Read Matthew 11:1–19. What does John the Baptist ask Jesus?
6. How does Jesus answer John’s question? What is the significance of the ordering of items Jesus uses in his answer? Is Jesus seeking to restore John’s confidence simply through his miracles, or is there some other meaning in his answer? (See Luke 4:16–21; Isaiah 29:18–21; 35:5–6; 61:1–2.)
7. Even though John the Baptist, devoted his life to preparing the way for Jesus, he still experienced doubts about him? Why do you think John was struggling with doubt? What is happening in your life when you struggle with doubt?
8. What can we do when we find ourselves doubting? (Consider John’s example and Mark 9:23–24; Hebrews 3:12–14.)

9. Who does Jesus say that John the Baptist is? (See Malachi 3:1; 4:5–6.) What explains the paradox Jesus used to describe him: that he is the greatest person ever born on earth, yet lower than the lowest in the kingdom of heaven?

10. Read Matthew 11:20–30. The Old Testament records the destruction of Sodom and prophesies the punishment of Tyre and Sidon. Why is the woe Jesus pronounces upon Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum even greater? (verses 21, 23; 12:41, 42; Luke 12:47–48)

11. How does Jesus describe himself in verse 29?

12. Who is Jesus speaking to in verse 28? What burdens were the people carrying? Whose yoke were they wearing? Why was that yoke hard?

13. How does coming to Jesus, and being yoked to him, and learning from him, give us true freedom and rest?