

Renewing Our Faith, Hope, Love
Outline – January 14, 2024
Matthew 11:1-19

Problems Press Down On Us All Day

- I. Where we find ourselves**
 - A. Everyone else is doing fine (except us)
 - B. We want to be happy for the happy people
 - C. When life doesn't go as we expected, we don't want the cliché' one liners
 - 1. God is trying to teach you something
 - 2. You just got to have faith
 - 3. Everything happens for a reason
 - 4. These one line platitudes turn us off
- II. When what we desire doesn't happen**
 - A. Expectation frustration
 - 1. Term used by marriage therapists
 - 2. When the dream job becomes a nightmare
 - 3. Dream vacation becomes a money pit
 - 4. The marriage that didn't go as expected
 - B. Terrie's birthday story (1989)
- III. John the Baptist: The person who personified expectation frustration**
 - A. A cousin to Jesus
 - B. A childhood relative – grew up together
 - C. Jesus said, "No one greater"
 - D. A prophet
 - E. Bold, calls it like he sees it
 - F. The forerunner of Jesus
 - G. Promotes Jesus, I must decrease
 - H. Lamb of God
 - I. Not fit to touch His sandals
 - J. Baptizes Jesus: Hears voice of God
- IV. John the Baptist: His boldness got him arrested, canceled**
 - A. Herod Antipas: Son of Herod the great
 - 1. Had an affair with his brother's wife
 - 2. His brother's wife was his sister's daughter...his niece
 - B. John the Baptist got canceled because Herodias hated him
 - 1. Because John the Baptist declared their relationship ungodly
- V. John the Baptist: Faced persecution and so will you**
 - A. Expect persecution
 - 1. Because of the Lord we serve
 - 2. Because of the life style we seek
 - 3. Because of the lies said

- B. Endure persecution
 - 1. Personal insults
 - 2. Physical intimidation
 - 3. Poisoned information

VI. John the Baptist: Lands in prison

- A. For over a year – near the Dead Sea
 - 1. No sanitation
 - 2. No recreation
 - 3. No air-condition
- B. His thoughts go in dark places
 - 1. Questions God
 - 2. Blames God
- C. He sends word
 - 1. Are you the coming one?
 - 2. Or do we look for someone else?
 - 3. He was expecting to be delivered

VII. The reply of Jesus

- A. Go tell John what you see and hear
- B. Look for what God is doing more than what He is not
 - 1. The blind – see
 - a. New opportunities
 - 2. The leper – cleansed
 - a. New relationship
 - 3. The deaf – hear
 - a. New insight
 - 4. The dead are raised
 - a. New life
 - 5. The poor have gospel
 - a. New hope
- C. Our circumstances don't define who God is
 - 2. We miss so much when we focus on what someone isn't doing
- D. Blessed is anyone who doesn't stumble over me
 - 1. Blessed are those who don't give up, when I don't act the way they think I ought to act
 - 2. Or who don't stop following the moment things don't go their way
 - 3. When you lose faith, you find a substitute for faith which often makes things worse not better
 - 4. Happy is the one who doesn't confuse God's silence for His absence
 - 5. Happy are those who persevere, who keep the faith
 - 6. Falling forward, not falling away will bring blessing

7. Blessed are those who don't let expectation frustration cause them to leave
 8. Testimonies of many
- VIII. John the Baptist is never rescued (He expected to be rescued)**
- A. He is beheaded
 1. Out of evil
 2. Out of hate
 3. Out of revenge
 - B. Blessed are those who are persecuted for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
 - C. John was reminded by Jesus who He was
 1. And then death came
 2. Heaven's gates opened up
 3. Faith, hope and love does that
- IX. The prayer of one whose life was filled with grief**
- A. Help us see the love you surround us with coming from other people
 - B. Help us see the mission you want us to accomplish
 - C. Help us remember that we are not the owners of our lives, but stewards of our time on earth
- X. What will you do this year to strengthen your faith, hope and love? That you can face persecution, overcome expectation frustration and be confident in God's plan**
- A. Faith comes by hearing
 - B. Hope comes by believing
 - C. Love comes by giving

**When We Live By Faith, Hope And Love
We Can Face Persecution
Be Confident In Messiah
Receive Reward In Heaven**