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SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)

TITLE: Program 17 – Are You The Expected One?

TUESDAY

OPEN

Are things difficult in life right now? Are you wondering, God do you really exist? I have cried to you. I have pled and I don't understand. Why am I going through this if I'm a child of God? Are you really God? You know there was another man, a famous man that had the same question. His name was John the Baptist; we'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Jesus had just finished telling the apostles that [those who receive them would receive Him and those who received Him would be receiving the Father.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:40) In Matthew chapter 11 we find another break in the book. And it says in chapter 11 verse 1 that “**When Jesus had finished giving instructions to [the] twelve disciples, He departed from there to teach and [to] preach in their cities.**” (Matthew 11:1) Now remember He's in the region of the Galilee. This is where He's

doing most of His public ministry. This is where He's going from city to city and going to the synagogues and teaching them about the kingdom.

Remember His message is **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 3:2)** It says in verse 2, **“Now when John, while imprisoned, heard... the [words] of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, ‘Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?’” (Matthew 11:2-3)** John's in prison, remember. In Matthew chapter 4 verse 12 we read about the time when he was imprisoned. And it was when he was in prison that Jesus left to come to the Galilee. Now John wants to know, **“...Are You [really] the Expected One...?” (Matthew 11:3)** Can't you understand his concern? I mean, after all, if He is the Expected One, if He is the Messiah, if He is the Christ, then why is John in prison? John has to know. And so he sends word by his own disciples, his followers to Jesus to find out. **“...Are You the [true] Expected One, or [should] we look for someone else?” [And] Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight...the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.’” (Matthew 11:3-6)** When he's saying this to them, remember Jesus has already told His apostles that they are going to be persecuted, that they are going to be hated, that they are going to be dragged before governors and kings. And they're to not even take concern for what they're going to say, because God would give them the word at that time. (See Matthew 10:19-20) He's told them that they're going to be persecuted because they're not greater than the One that they're following. And here's John in prison and he's asking, **“...Are You the Expected One...?” (Matthew 11:3)** Now, Beloved, as I stand here off of the shores of the Galilee on a high mountain in the region of the Galilee I'm teaching you what God had to say millenniums ago, almost two millennia ago. And yet God has a message for you and God has a message for me. First of all, you need to understand that they were looking for the Expected

One. They were looking for the Messiah but their concept of the Messiah was not necessarily a Messiah that would die, but it would be a Messiah that would rule, a Messiah that would reign, a Messiah that would be, as Herod said, the King of the Jews and as the wise men said, the King of the Jews. And so I want us to pause in our study in Matthew, at this point, and I want us to look at the prophets. I want us to go back to Isaiah and I want us to see what were the prophets saying that caused the people to wonder what the kingdom of God would be like. In Isaiah chapter 62 in verse 1 it says, **“For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning. The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will designate. You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of...God.”** (Isaiah 62:1-3) And as he talks about the Holy City he’s saying that you are going to be the crown of beauty. Well right now, in the times of Jesus they’re not the crown of beauty, they’re living under the oppressor. They’re living under the Roman government. They’re living, even, under the oppression of the scribes and the Pharisees which are putting laws and laws and laws upon them, and making it so difficult for them. And so then we come to Isaiah chapter 62 in verse 10 it says, **“Go through, go through the gates, clear the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, remove the stones, lift...a standard over the peoples. Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth, say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Lo, your salvation comes; behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.’ And they will call them, ‘The holy people, the redeemed of the Lord’; And you will be called, ‘Sought out, a city not forsaken.’”** (Isaiah 62:10-12) They were looking for the Messiah, the One who would bring in this period of time. In Ezekiel 37 in verse 24 we have this promise, **“My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; ...they will walk in My ordinances and keep**

My statutes and observe them. They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which [their] fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever....," forever, it was a promise of a land forever. **"...And David My servant will be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. ...I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever."** (Ezekiel 37:24-26) No longer would they need the synagogues. But there they would have the temple. There they would be able to come and to worship their God. It says, **"My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever."** (Ezekiel 37:27-28) These words ought to bring great comfort to them because in 70 A.D., and Jesus even tells them about this, the temple is going to be destroyed for a second time. But here is hope. Here is hope of a coming kingdom. Here is a hope of the coming Messiah. This is the Expected One. And John the Baptist wants to know, **"...Are You the Expected One...?"** (Matthew 11:3b) I'm in prison. **"...Are You the Expected One, or [should I be looking] for someone else?"** (Matthew 11:3b) And instead of telling him, I am the "Expected One," He says [go and tell John what he sees and what he hears.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 11:4) Well there was another prophecy in Daniel chapter 7 and it talks about the one who comes, a "Son of Man" that comes to stand before the "Ancient of Days" and watch what happens. **"I kept looking....,"** in verse 13, **"...in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, [and] glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, [men of] nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed."** (Daniel 7:13-14) Not only did they know that they would have

the kingdom forever but they also knew that all the nations then, would come and do obedience to the Messiah. Oh, how they looked forward to that time because, as I told you, they were under the rod of the oppressor. Ever since 586 B.C. someone had been ruling over Israel. There had only been that brief respite during the days of the Maccabees. And so it was very, very difficult. And, of course, they wanted this Messiah to come and, of course, they wanted the kingdom. But from there then we go to the Minor Prophets and we go to Joel and in Joel it talks about multitudes in the valley of decision and the day of the Lord coming. And then it says in verse 17, **“Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, and strangers will pass through it no more. And in that day the mountains will drip...sweet wine, and the hills will flow with milk, and...the brooks of Judah will flow with water; and a spring will go out from the house of the Lord to water the valley of Shittim, Egypt will become a waste...Edom will become a desolate wilderness, because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, in whose land they...shed innocent blood. But Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem for all generations. And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged...,”** now listen, **“...for the Lord dwells in Zion.”** (Joel 3:17-21) The Lord is going to dwell in Zion. And then we come to Amos. And Amos says in verse 14 of the last chapter, Amos chapter 9, **“[And] I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; they will... plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make [their] gardens and eat their fruit. [And] I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted... from their land which I have given them,”** says the Lord... **God.”** (Amos 9:14-15) So here was the promise. We come to Zephaniah. And in Zephaniah he tells that **“[He] will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts—they [will come] from you, O Zion; the reproach of exile is a burden on them.”** And then he says, **“Behold, I am going to deal at that time with all your oppressors, I will save the lame...,”**

remember he told John, the lame are walking. "... [I will] **gather the outcast...I will turn their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, even at [that] time...I [will] gather you together...I will give you renown and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes....**" (Zephaniah 3:18-20a) They had the promise of the "Expected One" who would bring the kingdom here in this very land and where He would set up His throne and rule forever. We'll talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

Before we return to Matthew chapter 11 and Jesus' words, His message to John the Baptist, what I want us to do is I want us to look at one final scripture in the book of Zechariah. In Zechariah chapter 14 in verse 5 at the last sentence it says, **"...Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!" (Zechariah 14:5b)** Verse 9, **"And the Lord will be [the] king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one."** (Zechariah 14:9) And then it says, He will be king over the earth, **"All the land will be changed into a plain..."** and it says, **"...but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site [on the] Benjamin's Gate...."** (Zechariah 14:10a) And then it says in verse 11, **"People will live in it, [in Jerusalem] and there will no longer be [any] curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in [safety]."** (Zechariah 14:11) John wanted to know, **"...Are You the Expected One...? (Matthew 11:3b)** There's so many people, Beloved, that want to know is there really a kingdom coming? Will there ever truly be peace on earth? Can we really trust the Bible? And every time a calamity comes we want to know, is it Armageddon? Is this the beginning of the end? Well the beginning of the end, I believe, is not far away. But it was far away then because John was in prison and Jesus was in the Galilee. And so he sent the message to Jesus, **"...Are you the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?"**

(**Matthew 11:3**) Now what was the description of the “Expected One” that was given? We find it in Psalm 118. And I want to take us to verse 22. It says, **“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.** [This is marvelous in our eyes. It’s the Lord’s doings.] **This is the Lord’s doing[s]; [And it is] marvelous in our eyes.”** (**Psalm 118:22-23**) Now remember, Jesus has come, the scribes and the Pharisees have rejected Him. He is the “chief cornerstone,” to them they have become a stone of stumbling. Then it goes on to say, **“This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”** (**Psalm 118:24**) And that is a picture of the crucifixion. It says, **“O Lord, do save, we beseech You; O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we have blessed you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and He has given us light....”** Now listen to this, **“...Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.”** (**Psalm 118:25-27**) Jesus is the [Lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world.] (PARAPHRASE, John 1:29) And He has been proclaimed as the Lamb of God. And it goes on and it says, **“You are my God, and I [will] give thanks ...; You are my God, [and] I [will] extol You. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.”** (**Psalm 118:28-29**) Now let’s go back to Matthew chapter 11. In Matthew chapter 11, **“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Go and report to John what you hear and see.’”** (**Matthew 11:4**) And then he quotes a scripture. It’s a scripture from Isaiah chapter 35 and it says, [The blind see.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 35:5) Now when you look at this prophecy in Isaiah chapter 35 and I want us to go there again, because as you look at it I want you to see and I want you to understand. I keep saying see and understand, see and understand. But when you come to Isaiah chapter 35 in verse 3 it says, **“Encourage the exhausted...strengthen the feeble. Say to those with anxious heart, ‘Take courage, fear not....”** (**Isaiah 35:3-4a**) Now what is John? John has an anxious heart. John is exhausted. John is feeble. And it says, **“...Take courage, fear not. Behold,**

your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind will be opened...,” the blind will see, “...the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like... deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.” (Isaiah 35:4b-6) And it goes on to say in verse 8, **“A highway a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for [them that] walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. No lion will be there, nor... any vicious beast [will] go up...; These will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy ...on their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”** (Isaiah 35:8-10) Here is a proclamation of a day that is yet to come when the blind will see and when the lame will leap with joy. But, Precious One, this is God’s word through his Son to his servant who is feeble and who is wondering, **“...Are You the Expected One...?”** (Matthew 11:3) And he says, **“The blind receive [their] sight... the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed... the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he [blessed is he] who does not take offense at Me.”** (Matthew 11:5-6) Now that word, offense, means to stumble. It means to stumble, and He says, [“Blessed are you when you don’t stumble over me.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 11:6) You can know that I am the One, I am the One. I am the Messiah. I am the fulfillment of all these prophecies. I am the Expected One. And you can tell by what I’m doing but I want you to know, blessed is the one that does not take offense at me. Blessed is the one that does not stumble over me. Blessed is the one that knows that I am the Chief Cornerstone. Blessed is the one that builds his life, builds his life on who I am.” That was His message to John the Baptist. And we keep calling him John the Baptist because I want you to distinguish him from the apostle John, verses John who was the forerunner of Jesus Christ--the one who had

come to give the truth. Well as we go in Matthew chapter 11 it says, **“As these men were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, ‘What did you go out in...the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?’ ”** He says, **“...What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing...?”** He says, **“...Those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces!” (Matthew 11:7-8)** Remember, Matthew has told us that [he wears a camel’s hair and he eats locusts and he eats honey.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 3:4) And he’s in rough, rough clothing. He says, **“But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet.” (Matthew 11:9)** Remember when I came through this doorway? Remember how I said that Jesus was saying to His disciples as He brought His message to a close? He was saying to the twelve, He was telling them, [those that receive you are receiving Me. And those that receive Me are receiving Him who sent Me.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:40) John is a prophet. John’s been here and John has brought you the message and what have you done with the message? Beloved, Jesus Christ is coming again. He’s coming to reign as King of Kings. He’s going to set up his kingdom and **“...Every knee will bow...and...every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.” (Philippians 2:10-11)** The question is: Will you believe it? Will you receive this message? Will you receive this message that was passed down from Jesus to the apostles into the Word of God? Will you believe it? Because if you do not believe it, if you do not repent, if you do not have a change of mind then, Precious One, you are lost, lost! Because you would not believe, because you would not receive The Message.