



Series: Unexpected Messiah
Passage Matthew 11:1-19
Title: When Jesus Disappoints
Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 8/9/2020

Discussion Starter –The title of this series is “Unexpected Messiah”. We have learned that having an understanding of the “real” Jesus is important. Disappointment may arise from unmet expectations. Have you ever been disappointed by Jesus? What was the cause of this disappointment? Have you resolved this disappointment? If so, what revelation about the character and purpose of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection helped you see the situation differently?

Difficult Circumstances and Unmet Expectations

- Under what conditions was John the Baptist living in this passage? How did he get there? Who was Herod?
- Do you think that John the Baptist was confused by his imprisonment? Do you think he was expecting a different reward for his service? Why?
- How did Jesus respond to John the Baptist’s disciples? Read Isaiah 29:18-19. Why does Jesus point them to this passage?
- What was the purpose of John’s ministry? What message did John bring? What is the main purpose of a prophet in scripture?
- Why was John’s message of repentance difficult for some to hear?
- What did Jesus say about John’s character? When you are disappointed with Jesus, how might this be comforting to you?
- John was not a “reed swayed by the wind”. What does this mean? Why is it important to study the entirety of scripture, not just the easy, feel good passages?
- What mission did Jesus indicate John the Baptist was fulfilling (See verse 10)?
- Read verse 11. What does Jesus mean when he says, “yet, whoever is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he (referring to John the Baptist)”? How is this related to God’s grace?
- What ultimately happened to John the Baptist? How do you reconcile this with the praise that Jesus had for John the Baptist?