

Get rid of that attitude!
Matthew 11:1-19

Do you have an attitude?

John the Baptist was sent to deal with the attitude of the people of his day. Like highway construction, John's job was to prepare the way for the Lord to travel as Isaiah had said [40:3,4]. John got under the skin of people... then [Matthew 3]. You and I may need similar "preparation"... now.

We see God dealing with people in [at least] three ways in today's narrative. We will focus more on the first.

1. God comforts so people can be reassured [4-6]

The situation: John in prison. How come Jesus isn't wielding the axe as expected?! John needs reassurance that he has "put his eggs in the right basket" so to speak. Jesus reassures John and John's disciples: consider the signs! Yes, John: persevere!

JESUS IS UNIQUE

Jesus is unique: he is "the one".

Jesus taught us to care for people from all creeds. But he did not teach us to regard him on a par with the Mohammeds and Buddhas of other religions. He is "the one".

JESUS REASSURES US

Jesus reassures not only John but us: he is the unique to whom we can rightly give full allegiance.

The last verse of this chapter is noteworthy: "Come to me all who labour and carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest..." Matthew 11:28-30.

Have you come to Jesus?

A NOTE ABOUT MIRACLES AND HEALING

Though Jesus reassures John that Jesus' miracles authenticate Jesus, tragically John receives no miracle but is later beheaded instead [see Matthew 14].

Similarly in Acts 12 James is martyred while Peter is miraculously rescued.

Remember we are not in heaven yet! Jesus' miracles were firstly signs of the coming kingdom of God. Though God is Creator and can do miracles "in his sleep", we may not see rescue until we see God's all-encompassing miracle: the new world [Revelation 21:4] when Jesus' returns.

2. God communicates so people will understand [13-14]

Often we cherish our own opinions or simply adopt those of the community. We don't naturally see things God's way.

John is described as the last in a long line of God-sent communicators. God spoke at length to Israel through the Law and the Prophets.

So..."whoever has ears to hear let him hear" [15]

Are you listening to Jesus?

Join a Bible group, Read your Bible. Listen to godly advice.

3. God challenges so people will change [16-19]

You just can't please some people

For John: they thought him crazy. For Jesus: they thought him a glutton.

People would not submit to those God sent to them.

Sometimes it is not comfort or knowledge that is needed but repentance.

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Have you submitted to Jesus?

Can a church too have an attitude?