



When it comes to understanding why Jesus came, we don't have to put words in his mouth. He made a number of very clear statements about the subject. So this series will explore the reasons behind the greatest mission ever.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Read Matthew 11:2-6. Why might being in prison have raised doubts for John about Jesus' identity? Follow up discussion: What kinds of "prisons" (for example, difficult circumstances, isolation, disappointment, etc.) tend to bring up doubts for you regarding Jesus? Why are we sometimes hesitant to voice our doubts to God during times like this?

2 It's safe to bring our doubts to the King. John Ortberg wrote a book called *Faith and Doubt*. He says the most important word in that title is the middle one. With that in mind, why are doubt and questioning important to faith development? Follow up discussion: what stands out to you about the way Jesus went on to speak to the crowd about John the Baptist after he had doubts (see **Matthew 11:11**)

3 The King can keep His promises without meeting our expectations. John knew prophecies about the Messiah like **Isaiah 9:2-7** or **Malachi 3:1-5**. But Jesus' answer points to other promises the Messiah would keep (see **Isaiah 35:5-6** and **61:1**). Sometimes we base all of our expectations on only one part of God's Word. Why is it dangerous to evaluate God based on our expectations (see **Matthew 11:6**)?

4 Read Matthew 11:16-17. Taylor shared these words from Jesus as a reminder that "*The Kingdom comes on His terms, not ours.*" Why is that important to remember? In what ways would a faith founded on "your version of Jesus" actually make you disappointed in the real Jesus?

5 The King answers our doubts with His words and His actions. Read Luke 7:20-22. In response to John's doubts, Jesus said, "*Go back and report to John what you've seen and heard...*" In what ways would these things have provided an answer to John's doubts? How can it provide hope and encouragement for us today?

6 Taylor closed by paraphrasing this thought by John Mark Comer, "*The goal of life in the Kingdom is not a life free of doubt, but a life full of trust.*" What stands out to you most from this quote? What are some practical ways we can help one another deal honestly with our doubts? What is one thing you can focus on or do this week that will help you develop a life more "full of trust"?

