



The Right Approach To Resolving Doubts

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see.... And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.” (Matthew 11:4,6).

Bulletin VCMT22

10 July 2019

The right attitude that conveys faith is demonstrated by the statement “God Said it, I believe it, and that settles it”

knock faith out of its foundation.

Instead of over brooding with wrong thoughts, or propounding fabulous theories and hypothesis that do not help, John, took a right step, a step we must always prioritise if we are to correctly resolve doubts and regain faith and trust in God. Note the following from this text.

- 1) John sent two of his disciples to confirm from Jesus, if He was the Christ. Had he sent them to the religious 'experts' of the time, he could have missed it. **We must always go to the source, if it is fresh and clean water that we are after.** Being incarcerated in prison, he could not go to Jesus by himself, but he did not use that as excuse from seeking answers from the right source. Neither was he deterred by the thought of what these disciples, who probably heard his proclamation about Christ, would think of the implications of his doubt and errand (vs 2 and 3). **Fear of man brings a snare** (proverbs 29:25) **and paralyses right action.**
- 2) Jesus did not give a direct confirmation requested by John, but rather fulfilled scriptures and sent the disciples back to narrate to John what they had witnessed (vs 4-5). By this Jesus was pointing John back to the scriptures, as the right foundation for faith.
- 3) Jesus' warning against offences (due to bad feelings from unfulfilled expectations) is an important message for all today (vs 6)
- 4) After their departure, Jesus declared to all the greatness of prophet John (vs 7-11). Why did Jesus wait till the disciples of John left before giving such confirmative approval of John? He wanted John's faith to rest on the sure foundation of scriptures, not human approval! The right attitude that demonstrate faith is conveyed by the statement **“God Said it, I believe it, and that settles it”**. Is that always true of you?

“And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities. 2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and 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. 6 **And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.** 7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? 8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (Matthew 11:1-11).

Seasons come in life, when doubts creeps in and tries to dislodge the faith we once enjoyed. Where we turn to and what we do at such times greatly determine the outcome - whether faith or fear wins. John has had a wonderful ministry of introducing Jesus to the world as the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. He has also had the wonderful privilege of witnessing the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus, the heavens open and God the Father, speaking from Heaven to confirm Jesus as His only beloved son. John had declared this to the people as the indisputable evidence of who Jesus was (John 1:29-34).

Shortly after that, things changed. John was in prison, and Jesus did nothing about it. John began to doubt as to whether he has missed it altogether. Note that **negative circumstances and situations, especially when prolonged, have a tendency to dampen our confidence in God and**