

The image features two gifts wrapped in light brown kraft paper with black ribbons, resting on a rustic wooden surface. One gift in the foreground has a wide black ribbon with a large, multi-looped bow. Another gift behind it has a similar but more traditional bow. A loose length of black ribbon is coiled on the wooden surface in the lower right. The text 'WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?' is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters with a black outline on the right side of the image.

WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?

Matt 11:2-11

HAS GOD EVER DISAPPOINTED YOU BEFORE?

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

MATT 11:2-6

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MATT 11:7-11

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

MATT 11:2-3

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

MATT 11:2-3

WHO IS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way_ for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

MATT 3:1-3

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

MATT 11:2-3

WHO IS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

MATT 3:4-6

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

MATT 11:2-3

WHY WAS HE IN JAIL?

But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

LUKE 3:19-20

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

MATT 11:2-3

John the Baptist's **disappointment** was real.
Matthew mentions the “deeds of the Messiah”

He was

1. most committed to living the message and lifestyle
2. most active in preaching and announcing the message
3. most likely to catch and understand it
4. himself one of the most important figures in the story



Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

MATT 11:4-6

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

MATT 11:4-6

And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf.

**The lame will leap like a deer,
and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!**

ISAIAH 35:5-6

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

MATT 11:4-6

**The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.**

ISAIAH 61:1A

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

MATT 11:4-6

John the Baptist's disappointment was real
Matthew mentions the "deeds of the Messiah"

He was

- 1. most committed to living the message and lifestyle**
- 2. most active in preaching and announcing the message**
- 3. most likely to catch and understand it**
- 4. himself one of the most important figures in the story**

He was also possibly

- 1. most likely to be disappointed**
- 2. most likely to be stumbled**

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

MATT 11:4-6

Say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come, he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution he will come to save you."

ISAIAH 35:4

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

MATT 11:4-6

**to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,**

ISAIAH 61:2

**HIS KINGDOM MAY COME VERY DIFFERENTLY
THAN WHAT WE EXPECT.**

In the **timing that it comes**
now vs future reign of God

In the **areas that it comes in**
Global Kingdom of God vs Kingdom of Israel

In the **way that it is fulfilled**
Crucified King vs Powerful Messiah Savior



**HIS KINGDOM MAY COME VERY DIFFERENTLY
THAN WHAT WE EXPECT.**

In the **timing that it comes**

God's answer now, later or in eternity

In the **areas that it comes in**

His Kingdom in my life only or also in others?

In the **way that it is fulfilled**

In our suffering or in our victory, Jesus wins



As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

MATT 11:7-10

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?"

MATT 11:7

John the Baptist

v7 A reed?

Maybe a kind of cane grass that grows by the river

A person who is fickle, swayed easily by opinions or situations



As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces.

MATT 11:7-8

John the Baptist

v7 A reed?

Maybe a kind of cane grass that grows by the river

A person who is fickle, swayed easily by opinions or situations

v8 A man in “fine clothes”?

Contrast to his own dressing. Suggesting a softer, weaker man.

Maybe refering to the one in the palace (King Herod)



**As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:
"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'**

MATT 11:7-10

John the Baptist

v7 A reed?

Maybe a kind of cane grass that grows by the river

A person who is fickle, swayed easily by opinions or situations

v8 A man in “fine clothes”?

Contrast to his own dressing. Suggesting a softer, weaker man.

Maybe refering to the one in the palace (King Herod)

v9 A prophet? And more than a prophet

A messenger from God, but is also the one the message is about

The forerunner of all the forerunners before

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

MATT 11:7-10

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MATT 11:11

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MATT 11:11

No person who longed for the Kingdom in their own understanding and strength can compare to the one who receives the Kingdom that is from God.



Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MATT 11:11

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

MATT 19:14

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MATT 11:11

No person who longed for the Kingdom in their own understanding and strength can compare to the one who receives the Kingdom that is from God.

THIS KINGDOM REQUIRES:

our **surrender** more than our passion

our **trust** more than our understanding

our **submission** more than our service

us to **value the future** as much or even more than the present



As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MATT 11:7-11

THIS ADVENT, WHAT ARE WE EXPECTING?

Jesus has already come and will come again

What if the way He comes disappoints us?

What if there is great delay?

What if we don't get to see the promise?

What if we lose even our lives unfairly?

What if the Kingdom comes His way and not ours?

WOULD WE WELCOME SUCH A KING? 

RESPONSE

- 1) Receive Jesus as King of our lives (again)
- 2) Welcome Jesus to break our molds and limits of what it means to follow Him
- 3) Welcome Jesus to help us release our disappointments towards God
- 4) Renew worship, surrender, child-like trust in Jesus as the Lord of our lives



REFLECTION

- 1) Have I welcomed Jesus as Messiah on His terms or on mine?**
- 2) What happens when I am disappointed by God?**
- 3) Do I only want a King when I get what I want? Or is He King anyway? What is He pointing out to me today?**
- 4) Ask God to help us to release our disappointments to Him, allow Him to come to speak to our hearts**
- 5) Ask God to renew worship, surrender, child-like trust in Jesus as the Lord of our lives**