

Matthew 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

Analysis

Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see. John the Baptist, imprisoned by Herod, sent disciples asking 'Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?' (Matthew 11:3). Jesus's response directs them to evidence: 'those things which ye do hear and see' (ὃ ἀκούετε καὶ βλέπετε/ha akouete kai blepete). Faith rests on objective facts, not subjective feelings.

Jesus then lists His works (verse 5): the blind see, lame walk, lepers cleansed, deaf hear, dead raised, poor hear gospel. These fulfill Isaiah's prophecies of the Messianic age (Isaiah 29:18-19, 35:5-6, 61:1). Jesus offers evidence, not merely assertion. 'Look at what I'm doing,' He says. 'Does this not confirm I am the promised One?'

This response shows Jesus's compassion for doubting believers. John, the forerunner who proclaimed Christ, now wavers in prison's darkness. Jesus doesn't condemn but provides evidence to strengthen faith. He later commends John as the greatest prophet (Matthew 11:11), showing that even great saints may experience doubt when circumstances press hard.

Historical Context

John's imprisonment by Herod Antipas (for condemning Herod's unlawful marriage to Herodias) lasted months before his execution (Matthew 14:3-12). In that dark

cell, John questioned whether Jesus was fulfilling Messianic expectations. Where was the judgment John had preached (Matthew 3:10-12)? Why was the kingdom not manifesting in power? Jesus's answer reminded John that Messianic work was unfolding according to Scripture, though not according to human expectations.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus pointing to observable evidence encourage us to ground our faith in objective truth rather than subjective feelings?
2. What does Jesus's patient response to John's doubt teach us about how God deals with His people when circumstances shake their confidence?
3. How can we, like Jesus, point doubters to evidence of God's work rather than merely asserting truth or condemning their questions?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀποκριθεὶς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Πορευθέντες
and	answered	G3588	Jesus	said	unto them	Go
G2532	G611		G2424	G2036	G846	G4198
ἀπαγγείλατε	Ἰωάννη		ἃ	ἀκούετε	καὶ	βλέπετε·
again	John		those things which	ye do hear	and	see
G518	G2491		G3739	G191	G2532	G991

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