

WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE... Part 1

“God, You Seem Inattentive, Far Away, Absent, Distant, Indifferent”

August 23rd, 2020

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”
Matthew 11:2-3

John the Baptist:

__ John was first prophet called by God since Malachi some 400 years earlier. John’s coming was foretold over 700 years previously by another prophet: “A voice of one calling: ‘In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; ([Isaiah 40:3–5](#)).

__ John’s birth was miraculous. He was born of elderly parents who had never been able to have children ([Lk 1:7](#)). John was related to Jesus, Elizabeth and Mary were relatives ([Lk 1:36](#)).

__ Adult life: John lived a rugged life in the mountainous area of Judea, between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea and wore camel’s hair. His diet was a simple one—locusts and wild honey ([Matt 3:4](#)).

__ John baptized Jesus ([Matt 3:13–15](#)) and heard voice: . ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased’” (verses 16–17).

__ John believed Jesus was Messiah: “I baptize with water, . . . but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie” ([Jn 1:26–27](#)). John believed in the Christ, , “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” ([Jn 1:29](#)).

__ John’s Ministry Grew. His Message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” ([Matt 3:2](#)). “He must become greater; I must become less” ([Jn 3:30](#)).

● **Just Because God Is SILENT – Doesn’t Mean The He Is ABSENT.**

⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ 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. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”
Matthew 11:4-6

● **Jesus Affirms John’s PURPOSE And CALLING.**

⁷ As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John... ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ 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... ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.
Matthew 11:7, 9-11, 14

● **You Don’t Have To Understand God’s PLAN To Trust God’s PURPOSE.**

¹⁷ ... He did this (had John arrested) because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹ So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, ²⁰ because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²² When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.” ²³ And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.” ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” “The head of John the Baptist,” she answered. ²⁵ At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” ²⁶ The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. ²⁹ On hearing of this, John’s disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.
Mark 6:17-28

● **Additional Scriptures to Look at For Trusting In God:**

Psalm 46:10, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 55:8-9, 1 Corinthians 13:12