



Week 1, Day 4: Learning From Others

Matthew 4:12-13 (NLT)

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.

Matthew 11:1-6 (NLT)

When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region. John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting¹ or should we keep looking for someone else?”

Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.” And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.”

Matthew 11:11 (NLT)

“I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!

John was put in prison for rebuking King Herod Antipas for marrying his brother’s wife. John is in this desert dungeon for 1½ years. While John is in prison, he begins to doubt Jesus. He sends his disciples to go ask Jesus if He is the Messiah. Jesus answers by saying that He is doing many miracles and the one who does not fall away because of Him is blessed. Jesus was not coming through for John the Baptist, and John doubts Him. Jesus speaks directly to John’s doubt and our doubt when He says that we are blessed if we continue to have faith even when it doesn’t look like He cares for us.

For Further Study: Read [Matthew 11:1-19](#).

What else do you learn about John the Baptist from these verses? You could see it as proof positive that everything bad that happens is not some kind of punishment. It doesn't mean God doesn't love you, care for you, or hear your prayers. How do these verses impact your view of suffering?