

Sermon

December 14, 2025

Matthew 11:2–15

“Are You the One?”

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



This is where John the Baptist sat in chains. The only sound was the wind and the drip of water in a dungeon far below ground. From that darkness he sent two disciples with one short, crushing question: “Are You the Coming One... or should we look for someone else?”



All that power on one side, and on the other side only a homeless Jesus with a handful of fishermen. And no wonder we have asked the very same thing. When the test comes back positive. When the marriage certificate turns into divorce papers. When the child you raised in Sunday school texts you, “Mom, Dad, I don’t believe anymore.”

When the pills stop working and the nights grow long and heaven feels silent. We send the same question out of our own dungeon: “Jesus, are You really the One, or have we hoped in vain?”

Jesus’ Gentle, Rock-Solid Answer

Watch how tenderly He answers. No scolding. No “How dare you doubt!” Only evidence spoken with love:

*“Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind receive their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,*

*the deaf hear,
the dead are raised up,
and the poor have the Good News preached to them.
And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."*

Every single sign comes straight from Isaiah 35 and 61. Jesus is saying, "Take the scroll your grandmothers carried. The words written seven hundred years ago are leaping off the page into real life right now. I am doing exactly what the Messiah was promised to do."

The Great Truth That Breaks Every Prison Open

Then Jesus says the line that turns everything upside down:

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist... yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

How can the least be greater than the greatest?

I read a story about a small village church in rural Romania. There, an 82-year-old widow named Maria came forward after the Sunday service. She had walked two miles on bad legs to be there. She told the young pastor, with tears running down her wrinkled cheeks, "I was baptized as a baby during the communist years, but I have never once in my life received the Lord's Supper. The churches were closed, the priests were in prison, and for sixty years I only had the Jesus I carried in my heart." The pastor opened the Bible, explained the gospel one more time, and that very morning gave her Holy Communion for the first time in her life. When she took the bread and wine she wept so hard her whole body shook, and she kept saying in Romanian, "Acum Îl am pe El... acum Îl am pe El..." ("Now I have Him... now I have Him...").

John the Baptist was the greatest man ever born under the old covenant. He baptized Jesus, saw the heavens open, heard the Father's voice. Yet John never in his life received the Lord's Supper. He never held in his

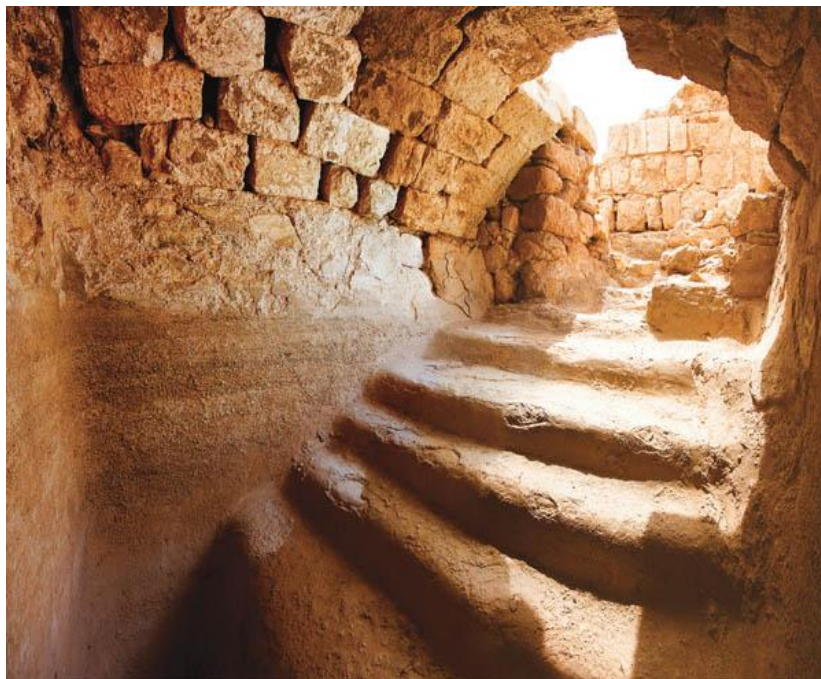
hands the body and blood of the Lamb he pointed to. He died in prison before the upper room, before the cross, before the empty tomb, before Pentecost.

Maria—poor, limping, forgotten by the world—was the “least” in the kingdom that morning. But in that one quiet moment at an ordinary altar she received what John only dreamed of: the risen Christ giving Himself wholly to her, forgiveness sealed, death defeated, the Spirit poured-out Spirit living in an 82-year-old heart.

John stood at the edge of the kingdom and shouted, “He is coming!”
Maria stood inside the kingdom and whispered, “He is here.”

That is why the least in the kingdom is greater than John: not because we are better, but because the King has finished the work, torn the curtain, risen from the dead, and now feeds even the weakest of us with Himself.

Look one last time at the ruins.



Herod thought his prison could keep the kingdom out. But God had already placed living water inside the darkest cell, waiting for the day when the King would make every prison a birthplace.

Your baptism, your place at this table, your open Bible—those are your mikveh in the desert. The kingdom is already here, even when life looks like broken stones.

Living the Truth Every Day

Because Jesus is the Coming One, you can face tomorrow's pain with today's promise. You can forgive the unforgivable because you have been forgiven the unforgivable. You can walk through the valley of the shadow because the risen Shepherd walks with you—and feeds you His very life while you walk.

Bring Him your honest doubt, your prison, your empty hands.

He is not offended. He is waiting to bless you with the same words He gave John:

“Blessed are you if you are not offended by Me.”

And every chain falls at the voice of the King who holds the keys. He who has ears—let him hear. Amen.

The peace of God guard your hearts and minds as you believe and trust in Him.

Pastor Ron Breight

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