



## Just What He Says



*John the Baptist, who was now in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you really the Messiah we’ve been waiting for, or should we keep looking for someone else?”*

*Matthew 11:2-3 (NLT)*

“Jesus, if you’re really my savior, my life’s not supposed to be like this, is it?” Who hasn’t had this question arise? Even John the Baptist, who

baptized Jesus and witnessed the Father's affirming voice thunder down from heaven, asked it. Of anyone, shouldn't John have a rock-solid foundation of faith? Why does he question it?

We too have the notion that when trouble hits, it's indicative that something's wrong, a failure of Jesus himself... "is he really the savior?" Does doubt need uproot the foundation of your faith?

*"But you dear friends, must continue to build your lives on the foundation of your holy faith." (Jude 1:20)*

Instead, could God be challenging you to develop a clearer understanding of himself, his promises, so you can lay another brick upon the existing foundation of your faith?

**Reflect: Where do my thoughts take me when I find myself doubting?**

Somehow, once we accept Christ as our savior (the foundation of our faith), we adopt the belief that he will make our worldly lives "go right," especially if we serve him whole heartedly. Imagine John, having dedicated his entire life to preparing the way for Jesus, wondering, "Why am I in prison? Am I doing something wrong? ...Is Jesus really who he said he is?"

Though not in prison, having arranged my life to align more and more with my Mission, I've often found myself wondering, "Shouldn't it be easier than this? Am I doing something wrong? ...Is Jesus really who

he said he is?”

I've come to realize that I've missed the point.

**Consider: Doubt challenges me to lay another brick on the foundation of my faith, not undermine it.**

John's thoughts lead him to go back to boldly question the source...

Responding, Jesus quotes ancient prophecies that predicted he would do just what he was doing. His way to say, "Look at the evidence... your foundation of faith is rock solid." Nonetheless, Jesus didn't step in to spare John's earthly life... he never promised him that. Nor has he promised to fix all your worldly circumstances.

Go back to the source to look more closely at the evidence, what has he promised?

*"He will keep you strong right up to the end, and he will keep you free from all blame on the great day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns. God will surely do this for you, for he always does just what he says, and he is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)*

When you face doubt, rather than question Jesus' validity, go back to the source and look more closely, asking, "What has God really promised?" while confidently remembering that he *"always does just*

*what he says.”*

*“O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”*  
*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:16-18)*

Able, he may spare you from today’s troubles, but he offers no guarantee. His priorities are spiritual, to give you eternal life (free of blame!) and set you on the path to become more like him (the result of an ever-deepening intimate walk with him.) Amid challenging circumstances it may not seem so, but this gift is priceless!

***Imagine: The Lord doing just what he says he will do to advance my Mission.***

It’s inevitable. If you’ve fully committed yourself to advancing your Mission, you will find yourself asking “Shouldn’t it be easier than this? Am I doing something wrong? ...Is Jesus really who he said he is?” Don’t let challenges undermine your foundational faith. Instead, turn to the Lord and look more closely. What does he say he will do to advance your Mission?

*“Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of*

*your cause will shine like the noonday sun.” King David (Psalm 37:5-6)*

Think of John the Baptist, the Apostle Paul, Moses, Noah, Jeremiah... Each completed their Missions amid challenge. Fully committed, they trusted the Lord and he helped them.

So, when you struggle to advance your Mission, remember, the Lord always does...

### **Just What He Says.**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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#### **Coach's Questions**

- What errant thinking needs to be put to rest so I no longer question my foundation of faith?
- Have I fully committed myself to my Mission and my Mission to the Lord?
- What struggle am I facing? Go back and look, what does God really say about this?

## **Spirit Talk**

Post this where you will see it regularly.

**My Foundation is Rock Solid**

*"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock."*

*Jesus Christ | Matthew 7:24-25 (NLT)*



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