

# Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

## The Blind See, The Deaf Hear

by Jerry Biuso

In Matt 11:2, John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” When I read that verse, it discourages me. After all, John was the one who prepared the way for Jesus to come. John had the privilege of baptizing Jesus before He began his ministry on earth. And in Matt 3:16-17, we know that, after baptizing Jesus, John witnessed the Spirit descending on Jesus like a dove and a voice from heaven saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him, I am well pleased.” If John had doubts, then how can any of us not have doubts about Jesus?

We read in Matt 11:4 that Jesus does not hesitate or even question John’s doubt. He simply replies to the question with why He IS the One. That is a good thing for all of us because it means we can have doubts from time to time, and Jesus will still love and forgive us. I know I can have doubts. Particularly when I am going through a difficult time at work or in my marriage, I cry out, “Where are you, God? Just tell me what You want me to do in this situation, and I will do it.” He rarely gives me an answer right away. Maybe it is because He wants me to be patient as I continue to seek Him and confirm my trust in Him. The waiting is difficult, but it usually draws me closer to Jesus, and then He shows up in amazing glory.

For example, this past year, my former employer decided to move its headquarters out of state. God made it clear that He did not want me to go with them in this transition. So I began my search for what was next. I prayed, read my Bible, and wrote in a journal every day, hoping to get an answer from God. Over five months, there were several emotional ups and downs as opportunities came and went. I had a choice to either believe God had His best for me or doubt He would provide a fulfilling job. God had been there so many times in my life up to that point. Why would I doubt that He is the Savior of my life and has great plans for me to serve Him now and in the future? At the end of that journey, God showed up in wondrous ways as I was offered my dream job right here in Arkansas.

What is it about Jesus that helps you believe? What keeps you believing as you walk in faith each day? Check out how Jesus responds to John’s question:

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

I believe in Jesus because of how He has shown up in my life, and I see Him at work every day. He answers prayers and heals, teaches, and preaches, just like He did when He walked this earth. How is He doing that? Through you and me.

God uses us to do His work. People come to know Jesus and believe in Him by how you and I serve them, and they see Jesus in us. I recently asked God what people need to see in me to know Jesus is present and doing his work. He revealed three things, the first being that they see Jesus' peace. When things are chaotic in my life or our culture, how do I respond?

A great example is in Mark 4, where Jesus is asleep on a boat with His disciples during a fierce storm. The disciples panicked, thinking they were going to die. Here is what it says in Mark 4:37-40:

A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down, and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

The second thing that God revealed to me is that people see Jesus' joy. When I am serving others, does it bring me joy, or is it just another chore to cross off my list? When my wife and I meet with a couple struggling in their marriage, do they see us energized with hope to try to help them out of a challenging situation, or do they see us drained in despair?

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."—*Romans 15:13, NIV*

The third thing is that people see the heart of Jesus in me. Do I extend grace, mercy, and forgiveness? Do I love others unconditionally? Do they see this in how I treat my wife? Do I judge others for how they live their lives?

"Love is patient; love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It does not dishonor others; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."—*1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV*

**Question** What was Jesus trying to communicate with John the Baptist?

**Prayer Starter** Jesus, what are You trying to say to me through this today? In what areas of my life am I doubting You? What steps can I take to trust You more?

**Family Chat** Is there anyone in your life who has offended you or hurt your feelings? Have you forgiven them?

**Take Action** Be brave enough to ask a close friend, relative, or your spouse, what or who they see in you. What changes do you need to make for people to see more of Jesus in you?