

Matthew 11:1-10

Jesus and John the Baptist



Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 11:1	After instructing His twelve disciples, Jesus goes on to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.	Teach (didaskō) – to instruct; Preach (kērussō) – to proclaim publicly.	Jesus continues His ministry of both instruction and proclamation, modeling leadership through action.	Lead by example—teach truth and live it out through daily witness.
Matthew 11:2	John the Baptist, in prison, hears about the deeds of the Messiah and sends his disciples to ask Jesus a question.	Prison (desmotērion) – place of confinement; Messiah (Christos) – Anointed One.	Even the strongest believers may experience doubt in seasons of trial.	Bring your questions to Jesus—He is not offended by honest doubt.
Matthew 11:3	John’s disciples ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”	The One to come – Messianic title; Expect (prosdokāō) – to look forward with hope.	John seeks confirmation of Jesus’ identity amid suffering, showing faith seeking assurance.	When unsure, turn to God’s Word and works for reassurance of His truth.
Matthew 11:4	Jesus replies, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see.”	Hear (akouō) – perceive by understanding; See (blepō) – discern clearly.	Jesus’ works confirm His identity—He answers doubt through evidence of divine power.	Let your faith be strengthened by what God has already done in your life.
Matthew 11:5	“The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”	Cleansed (katharizō) – purified; Proclaimed (euangelizō) – preach good news.	Jesus fulfills Isaiah’s prophecies, proving He is the promised Messiah through mercy and miracles.	Celebrate what Christ has done—He is the same Redeemer working today.



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Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 11:6	"Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."	Stumble (skandalizō) – to be offended or fall away; Blessed (makarios) – spiritually favored.	True faith perseveres without offense when God's plan looks different than expected.	Trust Jesus even when His ways don't match your expectations.
Matthew 11:7	As John's disciples leave, Jesus begins speaking to the crowd about John, asking what they went out to see—a reed swayed by the wind?	Reed – symbol of instability or weakness.	John was not fickle or fearful; his ministry stood firm in conviction.	Stand firm in your calling—don't waver when circumstances shift.
Matthew 11:8	Jesus asks if they went to see a man dressed in fine clothes; those who wear such clothes live in kings' palaces.	Fine clothes – wealth, luxury; Kings' palaces – earthly power.	John's simplicity and humility contrast worldly standards of greatness.	Live for God's approval, not for worldly comfort or recognition.
Matthew 11:9	Jesus affirms that John is more than a prophet.	Prophet (prophētēs) – one who speaks God's message.	John's role was unique—he prepared the way for the coming Messiah.	Value your divine purpose even when it looks different from others.
Matthew 11:10	"This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'"	Messenger (angelos) – one sent; Prepare (kataskeuazō) – to make ready.	Jesus quotes Malachi 3:1, confirming John as the forerunner of the Messiah.	Be a voice that prepares hearts for Jesus—point others toward Him.

Summary Revelation

This passage shows **the humanity of faith and the divinity of Christ's mission**. John, the fearless prophet, now wrestles with doubt—but Jesus doesn't rebuke him; He reassures through action and fulfillment of prophecy. Christ proves His identity through both **Word and deed**, and honors John's faithfulness as the

messenger who prepared the way.

The revelation: **Even strong believers may question in the waiting, but Jesus' works always confirm His Word.**

Cross References

Matthew 11:1

“After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.”

- **Cross References**
 - Matthew 4:23 – Jesus went through Galilee teaching and proclaiming the good news.
 - Luke 9:6 – The disciples went out preaching and healing everywhere.
 - Mark 1:38–39 – Jesus continues preaching throughout Galilee.
 - **Theme: Jesus leads by example**—He both teaches and models active ministry.
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Matthew 11:2

“When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples.”

- **Cross References**
 - Matthew 4:12 – John had been imprisoned.
 - Luke 7:18–19 – John's disciples report to him about Jesus.
 - John 3:26–30 – John points others to Christ despite his own fading role.
 - **Theme: Even faithful servants may experience doubt**, especially in hardship.
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Matthew 11:3

“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

- **Cross References**
 - Isaiah 35:4–6 – The promised one heals the blind and lame.
 - John 1:29–34 – John testified earlier that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - Luke 24:21 – The disciples hoped Jesus was the one to redeem Israel.
 - **Theme: Faith seeks assurance**, not disbelief; even great prophets need reminders of God’s plan.
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Matthew 11:4

“Go back and report to John what you hear and see.”

- **Cross References**
 - Luke 7:22 – Jesus gives the same reply to John’s disciples.
 - John 5:36 – “The works I do testify that the Father has sent me.”
 - Isaiah 61:1 – The Spirit anoints the Messiah to proclaim good news.
 - **Theme: Jesus points to evidence of His divine mission**—His works validate His identity.
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Matthew 11:5

“The blind receive sight, the lame walk... the good news is proclaimed to the poor.”

- **Cross References**
 - Isaiah 35:5–6 – The eyes of the blind will be opened, the lame will leap.
 - Isaiah 61:1 – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to preach good news.
 - Luke 4:18–19 – Jesus reads Isaiah and declares its fulfillment.
 - **Theme: Jesus fulfills messianic prophecy**—His miracles confirm the Word.
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Matthew 11:6

“Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

- **Cross References**
 - Isaiah 8:14 – The Lord will be a stone that causes people to stumble.
 - John 6:61 – Some disciples were offended by Jesus’ words.
 - 1 Peter 2:8 – Christ becomes a stone of stumbling for the disobedient.
 - **Theme: True faith endures without offense**—blessed are those who trust even when confused.
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Matthew 11:7

“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?”

- **Cross References**
 - Luke 7:24 – The same question about John’s firmness.
 - Ephesians 4:14 – Believers should not be tossed by every wind of teaching.
 - James 1:6 – Doubt makes one unstable like waves in the sea.
 - **Theme: John stood firm in conviction**, unshaken by opposition.
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Matthew 11:8

“A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces.”

- **Cross References**
 - Luke 7:25 – The same teaching about John’s humility.
 - 2 Kings 1:8 – Elijah was known for his rough garment of hair.
 - James 2:5 – God chooses the poor to be rich in faith.
 - **Theme: True greatness is measured by humility, not luxury.**
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Matthew 11:9

“This is the one about whom it is written: I will send my messenger ahead of you.”

- **Cross References**
 - Malachi 3:1 – “I will send my messenger to prepare the way.”
 - Isaiah 40:3 – “A voice of one calling in the wilderness.”
 - Mark 1:2–4 – John fulfills the prophecy as the forerunner.
 - **Theme: John’s mission fulfills prophecy**—he is the promised forerunner of Christ.
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Matthew 11:10

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

- **Cross References**
 - Exodus 23:20 – “I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you.”
 - Luke 1:17 – John comes in the spirit and power of Elijah.
 - John 1:23 – John identifies himself as the voice crying in the wilderness.
- **Theme: Preparation precedes revelation**—God always raises voices to prepare hearts for His coming.