

Title: Monday is Coming!

Text: "And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." John 1:34

Target: When the confidence of Resurrection Sunday collides with doubts of life on Monday how do we respond?

I. **Undeniable - Signs:**

A. **In the Womb of His Mother: (Luke 1)**

1. **Filled with the Spirit:** "he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from His mother's womb." (Vs.15)
2. **Marked for Service:** "to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." (Vs. 17)
3. **Recognized the Savior:** "the baby in my womb leaped for joy." (Vs. 44)

B. **In the Water of the Jordan: (Matthew 3)**

1. **Law Fulfilling:** "...it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (Vs. 15)
2. **Heavens Opening:** "...the heavens were opened to him" (Vs. 16)
3. **Spirit Descending:** "...like a dove and coming to rest on him" (Vs. 16)
4. **Father Speaking:** "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Vs. 17)

II. **Unforeseeable - Situation: (Mark 6:17-29)**

- A. **Incarcerated by Herod:** For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." (Vs. 18)
- B. **Executed by Herodias:** "And she said, "the head of John the Baptist" (Vs. 24)

III. **Understandable - Strategy:**

A. **Deal with your Doubt:** (when mental expectations go unmet in a physical reality)

1. **Unstable:** "for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind" (James 1:6)
2. **Unfruitful:** "keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful" (2 Peter 1:8)

B. **Define your Doubt:** "Now when John heard in **prison** about the **deeds** of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we **look** for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3)

1. **Circumstantial:** "prison"
2. **Experiential:** "deeds"
3. **Intellectual:** "look"

C. **Deliverance in Doubt: (Matthew 11:4-6)**

1. **Get Confirmation:** "Go and tell John what you hear and see" (Vs. 4)
2. **Get Clarification:** "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them." (Vs. 5)
*Notice what's missing from Isaiah 61:1
3. **Get NO Condemnation:** "no one greater than John the Baptist" (Vs. 6)

Discussion Questions: Doubt is not discriminating. We all, at times, face doubts. This has been true since the beginning of time. Adam and Eve doubted God's goodness in His provision and restrictions within the Garden of Eden. The Isrealites doubted God's goodness and

faithfulness after their exodus from Egypt. What doubts are you currently wrestling with in your spiritual journey? What causes you to doubt the promises of God?

There are practical examples of how to combat doubt and be reminded of God's faithfulness throughout the Bible. One such example that regularly comes to mind is when Joshua took stones from the Jordan River as a memorial. Joshua 4:6-7 details this for us. As you read the passage, think back on the times God has been faithful to deliver you in specific situations or times. Let these moments be stones of remembrance in your journey that you can use to recount the goodness and steadfastness of God when you waiver or doubt. Share with the group a specific time when God showed Himself faithful. You never know when He will use your spiritual journey to embolden and encourage another.

Takeaway: "Never doubt in the dark what God told in the light." *V. Raymond Edman*