

# WHEN LIFE HAPPENS

SERMON SERIES

## SERMON NOTES

Week 3 September 14, 2025

“When in Doubt”

Matthew 4:12–13; 11:2–6, 11, 11:28–30; Mark 6:18–20



### I. Introduction

- A. When we are in a difficult season of life, we tend to look around and ask “\_\_\_\_\_ is God blessing everyone else?”
- B. When we are in a difficult season of life, some of our Christian friends make \_\_\_\_\_ for God.
- C. We are all tempted to jump to conclusions about God based on our \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. John the Baptist

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ says John the Baptist is the GOAT (greatest of all time; Matthew 11:11).
- B. John publicly calls out King Herod and his wife Herodias’ \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ imprisons John the Baptist in a desert dungeon.
- D. Jesus responds to the arrest of his cousin John by going in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction and further away from him.
- E. John the Baptist begins to \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is who he thought he was.
- F. Jesus says “blessed is anyone (from any generation) who does not \_\_\_\_\_ on account of me.”

### III. Application

- A. Phillip Yancey, in his book *Disappointment with God*, wrote “The only thing worse than disappointment with God is trying to navigate disappointment \_\_\_\_\_ God.” \*
- B. Jesus is saying ‘happy is the one who does not confuse my silence for my \_\_\_\_\_.’
- C. You don’t have to explain the unexplainable or find a reason for all the randomness in life to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ is baked into the story of our faith. Doubt does not have to be an off-ramp to faith.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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\*Yancey, Philip. *Disappointment with God: Three Questions No One Asks Aloud*. United States, Zondervan, 1988.



# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 15-20, 2025*

## INTRODUCTION

We are all tempted to jump to conclusions about God based upon our circumstances. When we go through difficult seasons, we begin to believe that God doesn't care about us, God isn't present or maybe God doesn't even exist. It's during these seasons that it is tempting to walk away from faith. If you are going through one of those seasons now, Jesus has a message for you.

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### Monday: Job 2:11-13

Each of Job's friends, in his own way, told Job that God punishes sinners, so Job must have sinned. When Job tried to defend himself and his righteousness, these "friends" accused him of boasting. What are some ways people jump to conclusions about God based on their circumstances, either positively or negatively?

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### Tuesday: Matthew 11:1-3

While in a dungeon prison, John the Baptist gets reports from his friends about the incredible ministry Jesus is doing for all types of people. John begins to wonder why Jesus is doing great things for everyone else except him. Have you ever been disappointed with God? Can you relate to the feeling of God seeming distant or absent during challenging times in your life? If so, in what season(s)?

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### Wednesday: Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11 is like the 'faith' hall of fame. When you think about the people whose faith inspires you, who comes to mind? Which category does their story fall under: easy life or hard life?

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### Thursday: Job 1

Job goes through unspeakable tragedies and yet he still praises God. Why are stories of faith in spite of hardship so inspiring? Why don't we assume their faith was misplaced?

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### Friday: James 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, 16-18

James and the Apostle Paul tell us to not lose faith and walk away from God because of our bad circumstances. What would you tell a friend who has trouble believing in God based on their circumstances? Do you tell yourself and believe the same thing you would tell your friend?

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## MOVING FORWARD

After John the Baptist was arrested, he began to doubt that Jesus really was who he thought he was. Jesus had actually gone in the opposite direction of John and further away from him in his time of need. Jesus' message to John is his message to us: "blessed is the person who doesn't lose faith because I don't act like they thought I would." Like John, it is okay for us to doubt. Doubt doesn't have to be an off-ramp to faith. In fact, it's a natural part of the journey.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) why, B) excuses, C) circumstances. IIA) Jesus, B) sin, IIC) Herod, D) opposite, E) doubt, F) stumble. IIIA) without, B) absence, C) follow, D) Doubt.*