

Encounter Jesus
John the Baptist Encounters Jesus
"Disappointment with God"
First Christian Church—January 6, 2019
Chuck Foreman, Teaching/Missions Pastor

This is not what I signed up for...

We think God has abandoned us when things don't work out our way, but perhaps that's precisely when he shows up to do his thing, even if it's not what we want.

GOD's Story: John the Baptist Encounters Jesus, Matthew 11:2-6; 14:1-12

Who was John the Baptizer?

What was John expecting?

Disappointment with God, Luke 3:19-20; Matthew 11:2-6; 14:1-12

There were undoubtedly 3 kinds of prisoners in Herod's prison:

1. Those who blamed their circumstance and all the people who had done them wrong
2. Those who blamed God for their misfortune
3. Those who were disappointed that God had not rescued them from injustice

What did Jesus mean in his answer to John's disciples?

σκανδαλιζω-- (to scandalize) cause to sin, give up one's faith, reject, desert, doubt

"Blessed is the one who does not give up and lose faith because of me." -Jesus

How do we respond when God does not fulfill our expectations to rescue us?

1. Acknowledging Our Suffering

2. God's View of Our Suffering

- You are not unique when you suffer for your faith—1 Peter 5:8-9
- Suffering is our Refining Fire—1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5
- He repurposes our suffering for our good—Romans 8:28
- It's not his design for us. Someday he will take it away—Revelation 21:4-5

3. What We Learn from Our Suffering

- It's part of the deal—It's what we signed up for! Philippians 1:29; 1 Peter 4:12-19
- When we acknowledge our weakness, we experience God's strength—2 Cor. 12:7-10
- Humility and the release of our burdens—1 Peter 5:6-7

BIG Idea: "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."
-James 1:12

Right On!