

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

I would like you to turn, please, to **Matthew, chapter 11**. Do get used to reading from the Word of God. You will hear me turning over pages here, because it is the Word of God that I want us to concentrate on.

And as I pray for you, you might just pray that these little moments might really apply the Word to the listeners. That is what we are wanting to do, for that alone will bring you encouragement and hope in your distress. I know some of you are in distress. You are being prayed for as we realize that things might be peculiarly dark around your position. Did it occur to you that, in that darkness, the Lord is saying, "I am Light!" Many of the difficult circumstances are to bring you unto Himself in total abandon.

You know, I am thinking about John the Baptist at this time and I realize it was not easy for Him to be out in the wilderness, to be misunderstood, to live a very different type of life, but it drove him closer to God. Sometimes we are tested with the most unusual happenings to go through, but it is always to bring us closer to the Lord.

We read in this **chapter 11** that it says

**2 When John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples.** "Oh," you say, "I thought John was in the wilderness." John was in the wilderness for a period of time, but he had to face going to prison. You see, it is not always the easiest path for those who would follow the Lord. We perhaps imagine in our mind's eye that we will be well known and accepted. Perhaps if we sing, we think

our records will go across very well. Perhaps if we have little ministries amongst other people, we feel everybody is suddenly going to notice me and put me to the top of the scale.

The extraordinary work of God is that although it seemed very hard where John was in the wilderness, we next read that he is in the prison! Does that occur to you as a strange place to trust a man who had been so faithful to God? God knows what it takes in the life of a believer to test him on every level, so that he might say, “It is Christ only; only Christ,” and that ministry might be pure unto the Lord and bring total glory to Him.

For we read in that **verse** -

**2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,**

**3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?**

This was a strange thing, because he had proclaimed Christ, but he had his doubts.

I feel there could be somebody right now who is feeling extremely depressed. You cannot explain it, but it is as if you believe everything, you know everything, you go through everything that you think is right in your walk, but there is this tremendous depression around you. As you are depressed, are you are asking God, “What is it? Where’s it coming from?” These doubts need to be brought to the only Person who can take the doubts and to turn them into living faith. Go to God with your doubts. Go to God with the things that harass you and trouble you . Just in faith, see that the Lord wants to apply the very Truth to your life, to cause you to be strengthened and not weakened in your trial.

It is an amazing thing how the enemy will come sometimes, it seems, with legions of demons, to attack the very mind of those who would walk close to Him. This happened to the Apostle Paul in **chapter 7 of Romans**. There we read that he was absolutely so taunted, that every other word seemed to have the word “I” in it. Have you ever watched your own vocabulary? When you find you’re using the word “I”, you will realize that something went very wrong, because the idea is we are supposed to be speaking of the Lord and not everything related to the ‘I’ within us. Of course, we have to say “I” at times, but I am saying, be very sure that everything you are projecting is not around “I,” rather that “I” is willing to go to death, as it is understood that it is the crucified life that Christ is willing to pour out His Spirit upon and to trust to do His work, His way. It isn’t always the large crowd and the popular manner. Sometimes it is, yes, in the prison that makes one feel, “Why in the world, of all places, am I here?” Remember, much praise can go from a prison. Around the world today, people are in prisons, not because they choose but they are there because of their testimony for Christ. Perhaps you need to be in some prison to begin to understand they are your brethren and to pray for your brothers and sisters who are suffering and persecuted, that you see outside of yourself and see from God’s point of view. You’re in His family for His glory at this very hour.

*In Jesus’ precious Name. Amen.*