

**Facing
Our
Doubts -
Matthew
11:2-24**



“Doubt is natural within faith. It comes because of our human weakness and frailty. ... Unbelief is the decision to live your life as if there is no God. It is a deliberate decision to reject Jesus Christ and all that he stands for. But doubt is something quite different. Doubt arises within the context of faith. It is a wistful longing to be sure of the things in which we trust.”

-Alister McGrath

He is the One

- “Behold the Lamb of God”
- John the Baptist rebuked Herod and was now in jail



Are You the One? - John Experiences Doubt

- Are we comfortable with questions and doubts?



Disappointment Comes When Jesus Does Not Fill Our Theological Expectations

- John expected Jesus to baptize the righteous with the Holy Spirit and the wicked with fire - at the same time
- What's with all this mercy?



Disappointment Comes When Jesus Does Not Fill Our Personal Expectations

- Theological and personal disappointments go together
- There will be times when we will wonder why God doesn't act when we know he can



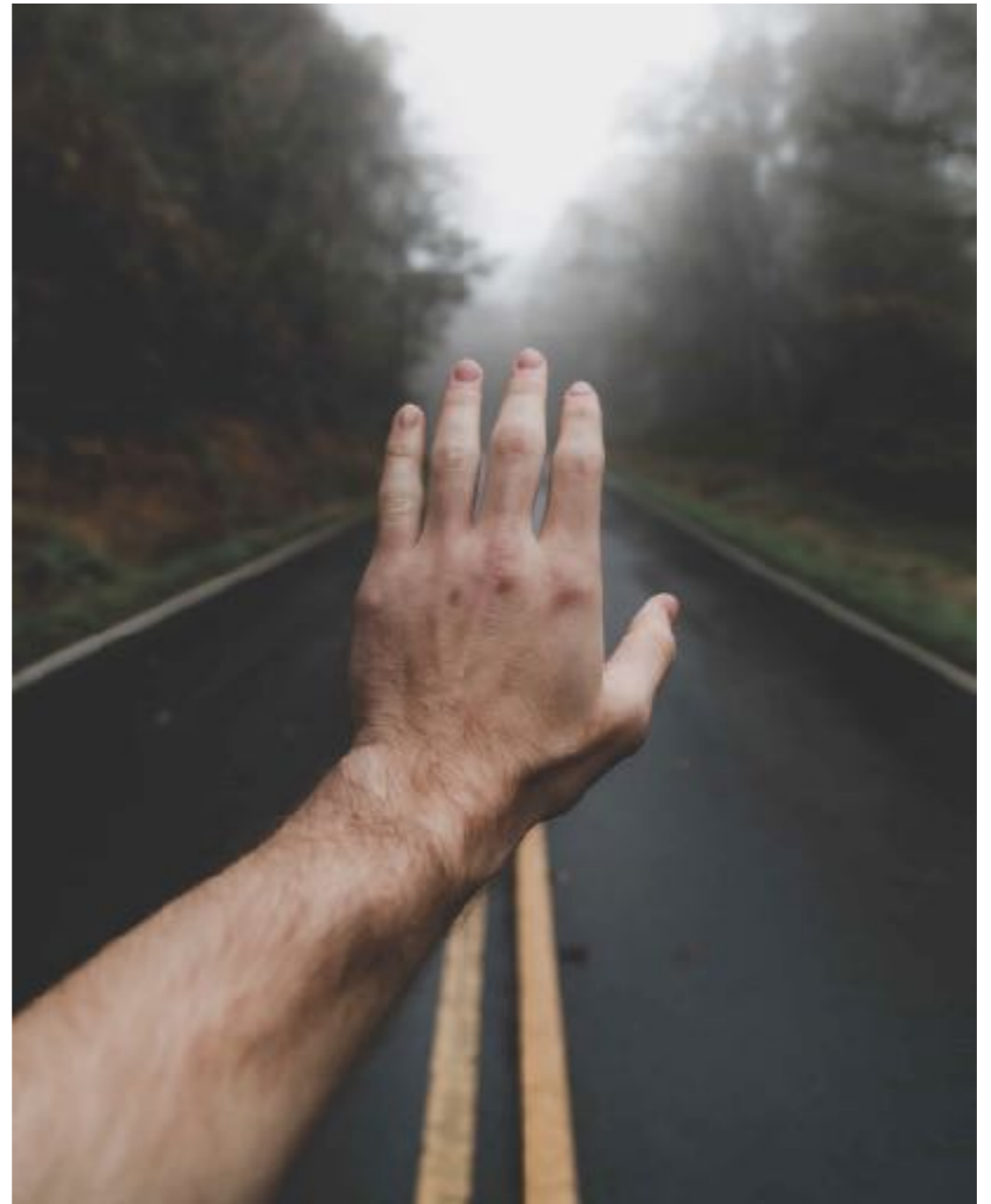
We Must Set Aside Our Preconceived Notions of How God is Supposed to Work

- Jesus coming in the days of John the Baptist was not the end - it was the beginning of the end
- Jesus will do his work in stages



We Must Not Allow Our Questions and Doubts to Trap Us

- We must be careful not to fall away because of the way God is operating in our lives
- There is a difference between asking questions of God and questioning God



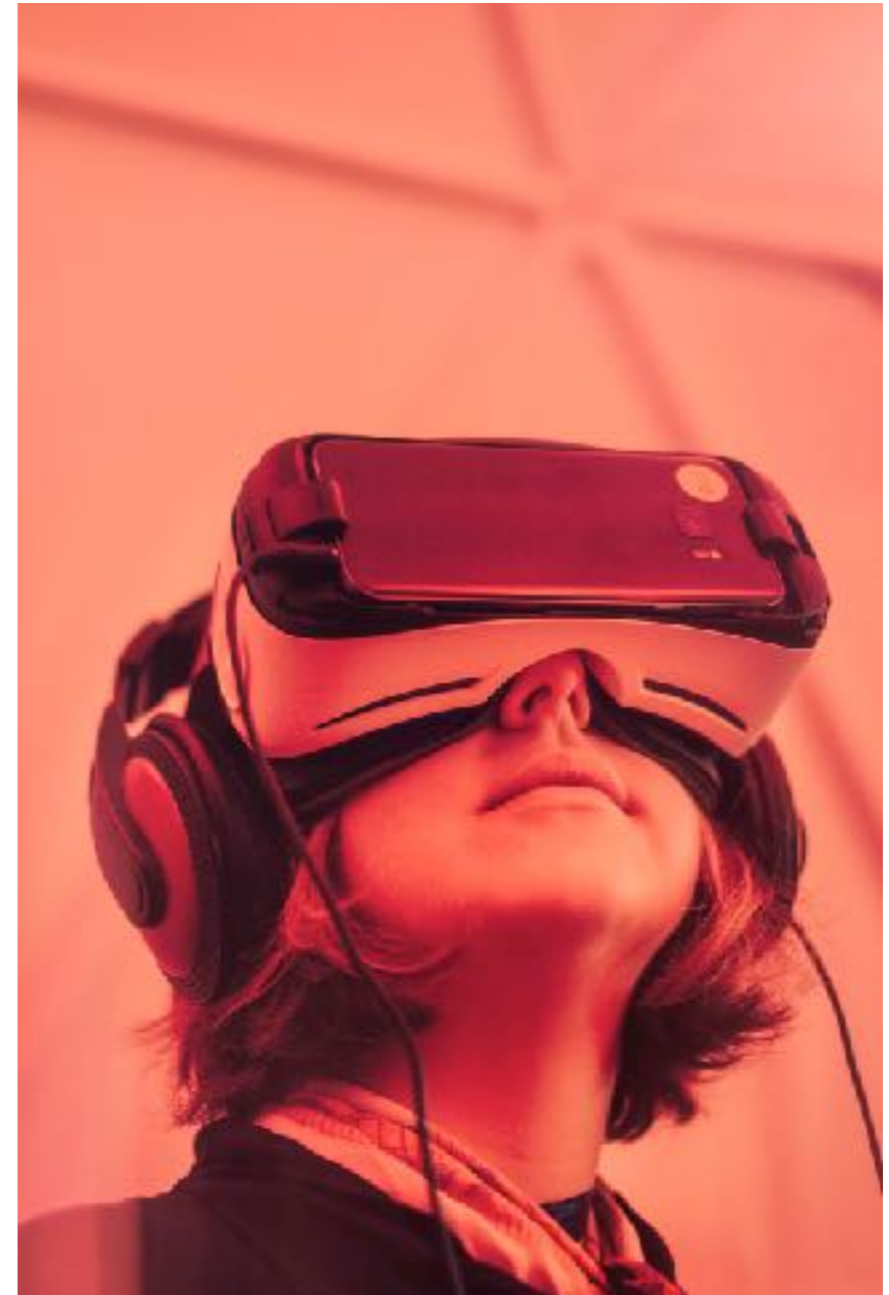
Remember Your Privileged Position in the Plan of God

- We have a much more complete picture of the Messiah today than John ever did



Doubt Comes Easy in a Culture of Cynicism

- John was accused of being separated and of having a demon
- Jesus was accused of being too involved and of being a drunkard
- Faultfinders have an easy target with Christianity



The Danger of Doubt Turning to Disbelief

- Those who had the privilege of the ministry of Jesus were accountable for their response to Jesus



We Must Not Demand that God Meet Our Expectations, but Simply Trust Him

- Jesus did not come to improve your lifestyle or make your life easy
- The centre of God's will is not the safest place to be - but it is the best place to be



