



# THE ONE

## The One (Week 3): *Are You the One?*

Week 1: "The One in the Beginning" - Jesus was there in the beginning--the God who created the universe.

Week 2: "The One Who Was Prophesied" - Again and again, the Old Testament spoke of One who would come. Isaiah said His birth would be improbable--a virgin giving birth to a Son. Micah said He would come from nothing, born in a tiny, insignificant place called Bethlehem. But "The One Who Was Prophesied" would be the promised Messiah of Israel, and will rule the world.

Week 3: "Are You the One?" - We will look at the natural inclination for Doubt and Uncertainty to creep into our minds and learn how Jesus, THE ONE, wants to bring us assurance of who He is and what He has come to do.

John the Baptist knew Jesus. They were cousins. Even from within the womb, there was a spiritual knowing within John of the significance of his cousin, Jesus.

Luke 1:41-44 NLT  
New Living Translation

*<sup>41</sup> At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. <sup>43</sup> Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? <sup>44</sup> When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. John and Jesus must have grown up together. After John answers the call on his life to be "the voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord" he encounters Jesus once again. Never in his wildest imagination would he have the opportunity to do what Jesus asked him to do.*

Matthew 3:13-17  
The Baptism of Jesus

*<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. <sup>16</sup> After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." (Matthew 3:13-17)*



# THE ONE

John goes his way to complete his mission to prepare the way of the Lord. Jesus begins his mission to establish His kingdom on earth. Years later John finds himself in a difficult situation and wrestles with his uncertainty and doubt.

Matthew 11:1-24

Jesus and John the Baptist

*<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region.*

*<sup>2</sup> John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, <sup>3</sup> "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?"*

John knew JESUS! Why would he ask such a question? John was in prison, wondering whether Jesus was truly the Messiah, since he did not act like a powerful warrior-king who would overthrow the Romans. John might have been confused because if the Messiah was indeed present then why was he still in prison? The reports he received about Jesus were unexpected and at the very least incomplete.

***OG QUESTION: Do you have doubts in your heart about a certain situation? Do you have questions about Jesus - about who He is and what He expects of you? If so what are they?***

John's doubts were natural and so will ours be. Like John we must be honest with our doubts, admit them to ourselves and to God. We must seek the Lord for answers. Only as we face our doubts honestly can we begin to resolve them and remove all doubts.

Jesus didn't get upset with John for doubting. Instead he answers him. He doesn't answer with a straightforward yes but rather with evidence of his very presence. He explains to John in a way that would show him that he had accomplished what the Messiah was supposed to accomplish.

*<sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— <sup>5</sup> the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor."*

Jesus' response to John clarifies and defines his messianic role by stating the evidence.

- THE BLIND SEE THE LAME WALK.... Isaiah prophesied about God's salvation as the restoration of fallen creation. Jesus did not come to overthrow Roman rule over Judea, but for the greater purpose of reversing the effects of sin and death.



# THE ONE

Isaiah 26:19 New Living Translation

*But those who die in the Lord will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy! For your life-giving light will fall like dew on your people in the place of the dead!*

Isaiah 35:5-6 New Living Translation

<sup>5</sup> *And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf.*

<sup>6</sup> *The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland.*

**OG QUESTION:** *What are some of the signs and evidence that you are experiencing from the presence of the ONE? How has His kingdom reign manifested in your life?*

Interesting to me, After Jesus makes this bold statement of the evidence that he is THE ONE everyone has been waiting for, he makes a weird statement:

<sup>6</sup> *And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me."*

The signs Jesus state about his ministry were intended to force John, his disciples, and all who would come to believe in Him to make a definitive decision regarding Jesus. Jesus knew that many expectations the people had about the Messiah would not be fulfilled in the way they had imagined. There were certain unexpected elements of his ministry that would cause some to reject him. No body more than John would have to this reality, because he now was in prison and facing death. He need to come to terms that the end of his story wasn't being rescued from the Roman rule. Death would fall upon him, his ultimate salvation would be experienced in a way that he probably didn't even understand at that time.

**OG QUESTIONS:** *Explain a time when God moved in a way that was not how you were expecting Him to move. How did that strengthen your faith or hinder your faith? What can we learn and how can we grow when things don't work out the way we expect?*

After he makes this crazy question. Jesus, probably saddened in His heart at the fate he knew would fall on His cousin John, begins to address the crowd and challenge them in their thinking, as He often did.



# THE ONE

<sup>7</sup> As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind?" <sup>8</sup> Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. <sup>9</sup> Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!

**OG QUESTION:** John the Baptist was the greatest person ever to have lived. Yet the least of Jesus' followers are greater than John because they live in the new covenant of salvation through Christ. How does this reality make you feel? What should our response to the Lord be knowing we walk in this underserved truth?

<sup>12</sup> And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. <sup>13</sup> For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time. <sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come. <sup>15</sup> Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

<sup>16</sup> "To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends,

<sup>17</sup> 'We played wedding songs, and you didn't dance, so we played funeral songs, and you didn't mourn.'

<sup>18</sup> For John didn't spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, 'He's possessed by a demon.' <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results."

Wedding songs represents the ministry of Jesus, Funeral songs represents the ministry of John the Baptist. Jesus was making a comparison to show the people their indifference to God's messengers and their rejection of their message.

**OG QUESTION:** Are there areas of God's kingdom message that you are indifferent? Are their areas of your life where you have rejected Christ's message to how you should live? If so, what are those areas and how can THE ONE redeem those areas in your life?



# THE ONE

## Judgment for the Unbelievers

*<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus began to denounce the towns where he had done so many of his miracles, because they hadn't repented of their sins and turned to God. <sup>21</sup> "What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. <sup>22</sup> I tell you, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you.*

*<sup>23</sup> "And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead. For if the miracles I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today. <sup>24</sup> I tell you, even Sodom will be better off on judgment day than you."*

We come full circle. Johns main message was "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Jesus is putting an exclamation point on our need to REPENT!

JESUS THE ONE, doesn't just call us to a confession of faith, HE requires a change in our hearts!

***OG QUESTION: What do you need to repent from today? Spend your last moments in prayer repent before the Lord and thank Him for the forgiveness of you sins.***