

ANSWERS FOR DISCOURAGEMENT

THE STING OF DISCOURAGEMENT

- All of us face it at some point - varying degrees
 1. Because of a negative situation - where you don't see an end
 2. An unexpected event - that caught you by surprise
 3. Dealing with life, believing no one understands or sees or cares
- As believers, we have options available to us **(John 14:1 CSB)**
 1. We believe in a God who can shine light onto our situation
 2. We believe in Jesus - who understands the human condition
 3. We believe Christianity is not a philosophy or religious structure for life

WHEN JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS DISCOURAGED (Matthew 11:2-6 CSB)

- John was in a dark place - literally
 1. Prison impacted him negatively
 2. He was questioning whether or not Jesus was the Messiah
 3. He was offended that Jesus had not gotten him out of prison
- But John knew better **(John 1:29-34 CSB)**
 1. He had a revelation of who Jesus was
 2. John's ministry was to prepare Israel for Jesus
 3. John got off his mission - telling the king who he was to marry was not his calling
- Jesus answered John
 1. In recounting the miracles, he reminded John of the prophetic scriptures about the Messiah
 2. Jesus reminded John that the blessed ones were not offended by Jesus

YOU HAVE ANSWERS FOR DISCOURAGEMENT

- You are not in this alone
 1. Believing you are isolated and no one sees / cares makes things worse
 2. Believe that you are loved and cared for **(Galatians 2:20 CSB)**
 3. The church can play a role in helping you see you are in God's family
- Let the Lord speak to you
 1. He speaks by His Holy Spirit
 2. The primary way He will speak is through His word
 3. When you are in the darkness of discouragement, you need light **(Psalms 119:49-50 CSB)**
- Don't get offended at Jesus
 1. Whatever discouragement you are facing is not His fault
 2. Stay connected to the One who loves you, cares for you, and can give you strength
 3. Not every situation in life will get fixed exactly as you want it **(Philippians 4:12-13 CSB)**