



## **BANGED UP AND BROKEN HEARTED**

### **Set the scene**

### **Matthew 11 2-6**

John is banged up in Herod's prison & he is doubting his calling and also even doubting Jesus; "Are you the one or should we wait for someone else?"

Prison can steal your dreams, family, calling, joy & hope. Prison can make even the most courageous, zealous and faithful servant of Christ feel very low & drown in doubts/fears.

John 1:29 'Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'.

John 1:34 'This is the Son of God'.



**FEELINGS ARE NOT THE SEAT OF WISDOM NOR TRUTH; THE WORD OF GOD ALONE IS! DON'T LOSE YOUR VISION & DON'T FORGET YOUR CALLING!!!**

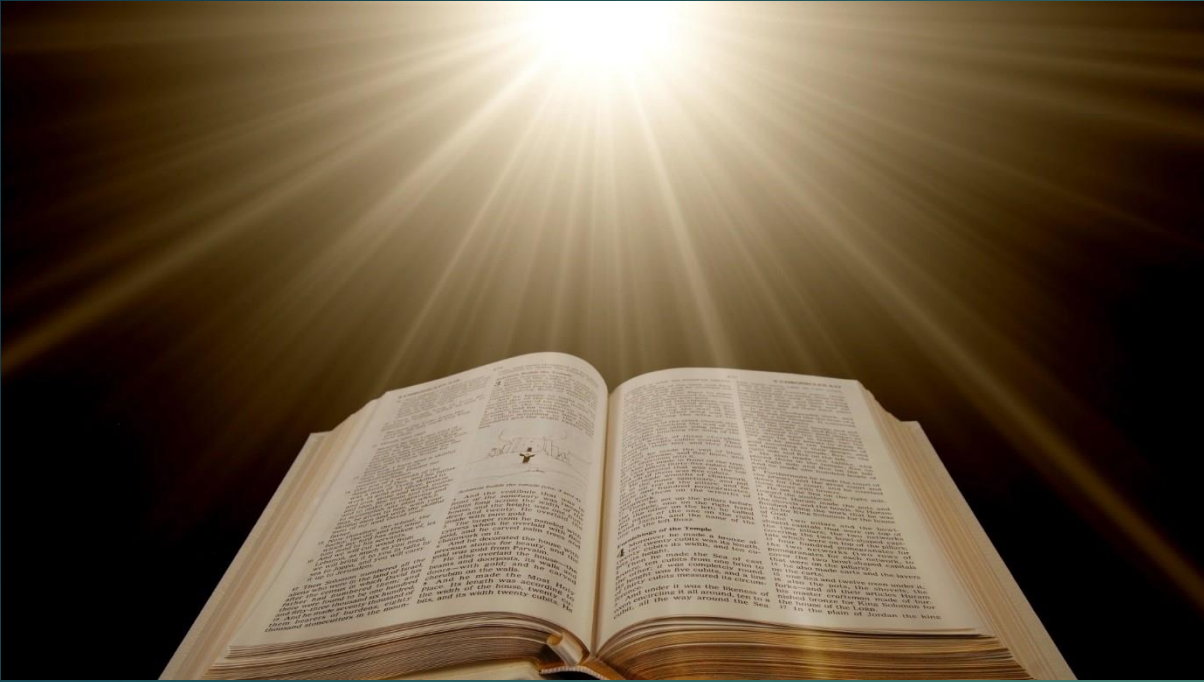
Matthew 11:4 'Go back and report to John what you hear & see; The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor'...

**WHY DOES JESUS SHARE THESE WORDS & THEN WAIT UNTIL JOHN'S DISCIPLES WERE LEAVING? (BEFORE JESUS BEGINS 'BIGGING JOHN UP').**



## JESUS BIGS UP JOHN... BIG TIME....

**Matthew 11:7-14** <sup>7</sup>As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'" <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup>And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come'.



## THE WORD IS OUR FINAL AUTHORITY/ HOPE/PURPOSE & IDENTITY.

Let's look at Matthew 11:4. Great, now look at Isaiah 35:5 – 6a;

'Eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. The lame will leap like a deer and the mute tongue shout for joy'.

Let's just admit it, John did not need an emotional boost in the dungeon. He didn't need goosebumps or a feel good moment.

Most of us would rather have a hug than the Word but Jesus knew that the Word alone would strengthen John when the axe-man came for him. This is why Jesus gave John the Word & the proof that Jesus was & is and is to come the very **Living Word & The fulfillment of the Word.**