

From the Pastor's Desk....

The Captain's Chair

“Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word...“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

-- Matthew 11:2-3

I remember fondly our first time owning a minivan. Having owned small sedans up to that point, it was quite a change. No more bending way down to get the kids in their car seats. There was plenty of cargo space for those long family trips. We enjoyed the higher riding position and visibility.

There is something enticing about the Captain's chair, with its plush armrests and spacious view. A comfortable lumbar support and seat warmers, if you have them, make a nice touch. The main reason to be there of course, is because it usually means you are at the controls.

Today we find John the Baptist sitting, not in the captain's chair, but in the backseat, or the jump seat even. He was sitting in jail. How did he get there? Herod threw him in jail for ministering to him and others with the Word.

John had been bold, telling people to abandon their evil ways, repent, be baptized and draw near to God. People from the entire countryside had come to hear him. Even the religious leaders came, albeit for different more hostile reasons.

All of that was changed now. Now Herod was in the captain's chair. The controls were at his disposal and he simply pressed the ejection seat button on John's ministry. Out of sight, out of mind. No more guilty conscience. Problem solved.

For John, however the problems were just starting. We too, at times, begin to doubt. Life gives us no promises and no guarantees. But we can trust in Christ. Things were not developing the way that John thought they would. Had not Christ come to free the captives? Where was this deliverance?

Jesus reminds John that miracles are happening everywhere, and that he is preaching good news to the poor. In other words, the Kingdom was advancing in Jesus. When we give up the controls to Jesus, he gives us a new perspective. Suddenly, its no longer about us, but about the Kingdom. May God help each of us with our doubts and use us for His good and glorious work. Amen.

In His service - Pastor Chris