

SERMON APPLICATION SHEET FOR:

Rev. Tony Felich

When God Feels Absent

Matthew 11:1-11a

January 11, 2026

Sermon Text	Sermon Notes
<p>Matthew 11:1 When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. [2] Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples [3] and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” [4] And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: [5] the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. [6] And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” [7] As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? [8] What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. [9] What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. [10] This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ [11] Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.</p>	<p><i>When we face seasons of doubt—our own or others’—we cling to what God has clearly revealed and faithfully done.</i></p> <p>I. John’s “dark night of the soul” (1-3)</p> <p>II. Jesus’ response (4-6)</p> <p>III. How to view such an episode (7-11a)</p> <p>Memory verses for 2026-</p> <p>Ephesians 4:1–3</p> <p>[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you To walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,</p> <p>[2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,</p> <p>[3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.</p>

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Sermon Application Questions

1. How do unmet or distorted expectations cause us to doubt God's plan and purpose?

2. Discuss: *"We should interpret our experiences through Scripture, not Scripture through our experiences."* Why does this matter?

3. If you're comfortable, share a "dark night of the soul" experience. What impact did it have on your faith?

4. Pastor Tony said, *"The issue isn't having questions—it's where you take them."*
What does it mean to take your questions to Jesus?

5. Matthew 11:6 says, *"Blessed is the one who is not offended by me."*
How does this speak to moments when Jesus doesn't meet our expectations?

Prayer Requests

This week our family will lift up requests for:

This week our family will praise the Lord for:

HFG Notes & Actions:

Next HFG meeting is: