

THE AGONY OF DECONSTRUCTING

Series: “DECONSTRUCTING AND RECONSTRUCTING”, Part 1 of 2

Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Text: Matthew 11:1-11a

Big Idea: When life doesn't turn out the way you thought it would, it is natural to begin to doubt and deconstruct your faith.

Matthew 11:1-3, “After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.² When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples³ to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Deconstruction: a critical questioning and dismantling of one's beliefs about what it means to be a Christian.

FOUR THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DECONSTRUCTION:

1. DECONSTRUCTION OFTEN HAPPENS...

- A. When you have difficulty reconciling your Christian beliefs with new information and truth claims.
- B. When you are disillusioned with professing Christians who are blatantly hypocritical.
- C. When you are disappointed with God.

2. IT HAPPENS WITH PEOPLE AT ALL PLACES ON THE MATURITY SPECTRUM.

Matthew 11:11a, “I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist.”

John 1:29, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 3:27-30, “To this John replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.’ ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.”

3. SOME DECONSTRUCTION NEEDS TO HAPPEN.

Paul Tripp says: “We should all be deconstructing our faith — we better do it. Because our faith becomes a culture, a culture so webbed into the purity of truth that it’s hard to separate the two. And we better do some deconstructing or we’re going to find ourselves again and again in these sad places.” (*Aftermath*, 36:57)

A. Extreme legalism.

B. Prosperity Gospel.

C. Christian nationalism.

4. DECONSTRUCTION DOESN’T HAVE TO LEAD TO “DECONVERSION.”

Matthew 11:4-6, “Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ 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. ⁶ Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”