

God With Us

A Study of Matthew: "The Sermon on John the Baptist"

Matthew 11:1-19

"Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)

I. Are You Really the One? (vv.1-3)

- a. Read verse 2, again. Why was John in doubt? In John's eyes, Jesus's method of operation was a little mysterious. John understanding of the Messiah's coming was similar to most Jews:
 1. The Messiah would come as a conquering king. He would put right what was wrong.
 2. He would usher in a new realm of righteousness and overthrow iniquity.
 3. The Messiah would establish God's rule in the earth. The Jews would regain their land.
 4. The enemies of God would be crushed. God's people would rule and reign.
- b. All of these things will come to pass, but in God's timing.
- c. John was sitting in prison and heard nothing of a *change in power*. He heard that Jesus was healing, casting out demons and hanging out with sinners. *Where is my Messiah*, John asked?
- d. The Romans were still in power, the Pharisees still controlled religious life, the Sadducees still controlled the temple and John is about to get his head cut off. John asked, Are you the One?
- e. Read John 1:29-34. The truth of the matter is all believers doubt sometime.

II. Jesus Answers John's Messengers (vv.4-7)

- a. Jesus answers John's messengers, *The Messiah is here*. "I am the one who is doing these things and I will do much more."
- b. God chooses to work in the manner in which He gets the glory and His people get the blessing. Always in that order. We often times want the blessing and then we want to see God's glory.
- c. Notice that Jesus does not shame John by saying, "*Blessed is the one who doesn't doubt*." But Jesus says, "*Blessed is the one who is not offended by Me*."

III. A Brief Word on John (vv.8-11)

- a. While Jesus is speaking, He is fully aware of John's impending death. If John died before Jesus spoke these words would be a eulogy. Jesus, asked the people, "What did you expect to see?"
 1. John was not a reed blowing in the wind, he was a redwood.
 2. John was not a fashion icon, he was a simple man with a mighty purpose.
 3. Some of you might have looked down on John, but he represented the King of Kings.
- b. Jesus says, *there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist*, which means John is more than a prophet because was prophesied. He is the object of prophecy.
- c. *He who is least in the kingdom of heaven* refers to the disciples of Jesus. "*The least one under God's rule*" enjoys blessings greater than those of John.
- d. If John is more than a prophet, what does this make Jesus? John was sent before our faces to prepare the way for Jesus to be sent before our faces. (John 20:29) (John 1:10-11)
- e. You saw and did not believe. (vv.18-19) Will you hear and believe? (Read v.15)

IV. The Violence Against the Kingdom (v.12)

- a. Many have tried to *force* their way into the Kingdom, meaning attempting to gain access to God and be in relationship with God on their own terms. (Read Acts 20:28-30)
- b. All the prophets and the Law told you what God requires and accepts. Are you listening?

V. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. If Jesus came conquering, as man conquers, some would say that Jesus forced them to follow Him.
- b. Just because things do not appear to be what they should be does not mean that God is not working the issue to completion. Everything associated under God's rule is working toward completion, which is a divine end. If you listen, you will hear?