

Jesus Defends John The Baptist

Matthew 11:7-19

Intro:

- A. **John sent two disciples to Jesus.**
 - 1. He was in prison.
 - 2. He had heard about the works of Jesus.
 - 3. He wanted an affirmation that Jesus was indeed, "the one who should come."

- B. **Jesus sent John a message.**
 - 1. The things done by Jesus. v.5
 - 2. A warning from Jesus. v.6

I. Jesus Defends John To The Multitudes.

- A. **Jesus uses three illustrations.**
 - 1. A reed shaken in the wind. v.7
 - 2. A man clothed in soft clothing. v.8
 - 3. A prophet. v.9

- B. **What do these mean?**
 - 1. A reed was tall and easily blown about by the wind. John was not unstable and wishy-washy.
 - 2. The type of raiment spoken of here was that worn by the effeminate. John was a rugged man.
 - 3. John was a prophet but he was more than a speaker of truth. He himself was a sign to all.

- C. **God does not use sissies.**
 - 1. His preacher should seek to please God.
 - 2. Those who test the wind first are cowards.

II. Jesus Identifies John.

- A. **John was a messenger of God.**
 - 1. messenger = αγγελος = "to deliver a message."
v.10
 - 2. prepare = κατασκευαζω = "to prepare fully"
 - 3. How did John prepare people for the coming of Jesus? By stating a message!

- B. **John is a great man but not greater than Jesus.**

v.11

1. least = μικρος = "small, least, the least, may be used of time and rendered "later".
2. John 3:30

C. John is the end and the beginning.

1. suffereth violence = βιαζομαι = "to carry a point by obstinate perseverance" **v.12-13**
2. violence = βιαστης = "one who unjustly exerts strength or power"
3. by force = αρπαζω = "to seize upon," "snatch away," "to carry off."
4. From the time that John began to preach the message, the kingdom had been under siege by men of violence. They had besieged it and would cause it to come into being by physical force.
5. His own apostles had this attitude. Luke 9:51-56
6. All of the law and all of the prophets entered into an entirely new dispensation when John began to preach. **v.14**

D. John was Elijah.

1. receive = δεχομαι = "to accept hospitably" **v.14**
2. Malachi 4:5 - "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:"
3. "If you are willing to welcome and embrace the concept..."

E. Truth must be heard and believed. V.15

1. "He that ears to hear..."
2. "Let him hear."
3. "If you have the capacity to understand, then understand."

III. Jesus Characterizes His Contemporary Generation.

A. "To what shall I compare this generation." V.16

1. They are like children playing in the marketplace.
2. Children played having a party. **V.17a**
3. They played holding a funeral. **V.17b**

B. The proof of their shallowness. V.18

1. John was ascetic in lifestyle, and they said he had a devil.
2. Jesus was natural in his relationships and they criticized Him for this. **V.19a**

C. Like begets like. V.19b

1. A wise person has wisdom for a father.
2. A fool is not the son of wisdom.