

John In Prison

Matthew 11:1-6

Intro:

- A. **Jesus called and commanded His twelve disciples.**
 - 1. He called them by name. 10:2
 - 2. He sent them forth and commanded them. 10:5
 - 3. He instructed them in many things.
 - 4. These truths applied specifically to them and in principle to all other disciples.

- B. **Jesus ended commanding them. 11:1**
 - 1. commanding = διατασσω = "to arrange throughout," "to dispose in order", "to set fully in order." (In verse 5 of chapter 10, the word is παραγγελλω = "to announce beside or near to anyone," "to give the word to anyone," "to exhort", "to order", "exhort.")
 - 2. He departed thence..."
 - 3. teach = διδασκω = "to give instruction or direction"
 - 4. preach = κηρυσσω = "to make proclamation," "to announce publicly," "publish announcements."

- C. **John heard about Christ's work.**
 - 1. He was in prison.
 - 2. John was confused.

I. John In Prison.

- A. **Why is John in prison?**
 - 1. He continued to have disciples.
 - 2. This was not according to God's plan.
 - 3. John 3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease."
 - 4. "...he sent two of his disciples..."

- B. **How did John get in prison?**
 - 1. 14:3-12
 - 2. John was in prison for telling the truth." "It is not lawful for thee to have her." (to Herod, who had taken his brother Philip's wife)

3. Wicked intrigue was used to bring about John's, decrease."
4. It worked, v.12, His disciples buried him and came and told Jesus.

C. **The disciples of John questioned Jesus.**

1. "Art thou he that should come,..." v.3
2. "Or do we look for another"?

II. Jesus Sends John A Reply.

A. **Jesus did not rebuke them. V.4**

1. answered = αποκρινομαι = "to give a judicial answer," "to reply to a question."
2. shew = αναγγελλω = "to lay before in words again or over", "tell him once more".
3. "Tell him again all you hear and see..."

B. **The signs that Messiah would show. V.5**

1. "The blind receive their sight..."
2. "The lame walk"
3. "The lepers are cleansed."
4. "The deaf hear."
5. The dead are raised up."
6. The poor have the gospel preached to them."
Poor = πτωχος = "abject poverty." Gospel preached = ευαγγελιζω = "to proclaim the truthful, Joy-bringing message." This included the entire truth about Jesus and His kingdom. We don't take Webster's definition on the transliterated (Jesus did this as recorded in verse one.). Word baptize, why should we take Webster's definition of the transliterated word, evangelize?

III. Jesus Sent A Word Of Warning And Encouragement.

A. **And blessed is he..." v.6**

1. blessed = μακαριος = "happy," "contented," "joyously confident"
2. "happy is he" - Rhm

B. **"...whosoever shall not be offended in me."**

1. offended = σκανδαλιζω = "to lay a snare for," "set a trap for" hence, to cause to stumble

or fall, to give offence or scandal to anyone."

2. "who does not stumble on account of me."
3. John was in prison. He was there because he followed the teaching of Jesus and rebuked Herod.
4. This may have disappointed John.

