

July 7, 2019

The New Testament!
Matthew 11:7-15
"Jesus Testimony to John the Baptist"!

Matthew 11:7-15

Introduction

The testimony of Jesus to John the Baptist

What did you go out to see?

Greater than all the other prophets!

Only the violent take it!

He who has ears let him hear!

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? Jesus will sooner or later bear testimony of every man or woman

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.

John was hated and jailed for his plan rebukes

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.'

John was everything that the greatest prophets had been

Malachi 3:1 (ESV) "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

He came closer than all the rest

Again this is a rule we must understand
Matthew 10:32-33 (ESV) So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Jesus sets John in a very high position
Up until the coming of Jesus, John was the greatest of those born of woman
But those in the "kingdom of heaven" are on a higher plane

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

John had stirred up the people
Matthew 8:18-22

We cannot be like these
We must be bold, determined, zealous, forceful and convinced

It is time to stop wavering between two opinions
1 Kings 18:21 (ESV) And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

This was not a formality, we must "enter in at the narrow gate"

We must become follower's of Jesus
We must confess Him and follow Him as Lord and Savior

13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

God did not leave Himself without a witness
until John, and after that the "kingdom of heaven" is set up

if you are willing to accept it, then a preacher may be an avenue of salvation, an opportunity for edification, a facilitator of sanctification

Ephesians 4:29 (ESV) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear (that it may benefit those who listen).

If they accepted John as Elijah, as the forerunner of Jesus, then they would accept Jesus as the Messiah is what we must do that this generation did not do

15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

What Jesus is saying here is worth listening to and heeding

Summary

What a testimony of John the Baptist given by Jesus

No man ever received such acclaim

No prisoner was ever so highly spoken of

1. There was no mortal man greater than John
among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist

2. John was not a weak, vacillating, unstable man
A reed shaken by the wind?

Jesus says John was a bold, unflinching witness to the truth

He did not have the heart for this world

He was a self-denying preacher of repentance

3. He was more than a prophet
more than a prophet
He had the highest honor of all the prophets
They had not seen Jesus
John saw Jesus face to face
He was an eyewitness to the inception of the
"kingdom of God"
They said...
Isaiah 53:7 (ESV) Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter.
Daniel 9:26 (ESV) an anointed one shall be cut off.
John said...
John 1:29 (ESV) "Behold, the Lamb of God"

Does this not warm your heart?
Do we know what it is to be in the battle?
Let us always remember these verses when we are there!
Someday those faithful to advance His kingdom will hear these words...
Matthew 25:34 (ESV) Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Then we will know this truth, "every word spoken of or on our Master's behalf will receive its reward!"
Next week the dangers of not hearing, receiving and doing what you have been called to do