



The Gospel of Matthew

“Jesus, John and the Kingdom”
Matthew 11:7-15

~~And as these were going away, Jesus began to speak to the multitudes about John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?~~

But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces.

But why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.

~~“This is the one about whom it is written,~~
‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE YOU.’

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

~~“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.~~

For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

And if you care to accept it, he himself is Elijah, who was to come.

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

Matthew 11:7-15
(NASB)



Jesus, John & the Kingdom

1. John’s Unique Position

- the forerunner who prepared the way for and personally pointed to Messiah
- the pivotal prophet between the old era of prediction and the new era fulfillment



Jesus, John & the Kingdom

2. Implications About Jesus

- Jesus is the manifestation of Yahweh who brings in the Day of the Lord
- Jesus inaugurates the kingdom of heaven, the era of fulfillment



Jesus, John & the Kingdom

3. Nature of the Kingdom

➤ *the greatness of the kingdom*

- the least in the kingdom of heaven has greater privilege and position than John
- the least in the kingdom points to Jesus more unambiguously than John



Jesus, John & the Kingdom

3. Nature of the Kingdom

➤ *the advancement of the kingdom*

- since the inception of Jesus' ministry, the kingdom has been "forcefully advancing"...
- at the same time violent men commit hostile actions against it



Jesus, John & the Kingdom

4. Unresponsive Hearts

- Jesus compares the people to uncooperative children who are always critical
- Self-righteousness is indifferent to God's call to repentance and faith



Jesus, John & the Kingdom

Jesus' Challenge...

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