

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

## Wisdom is Justified by Her Children

Matthew 11:1-24

### Last week:

- Sent out as sheep amongst wolves
- What should we expect as we live for the Lord and minister in his name? Persecution.
- The Prince of Peace didn't come to bring peace, but a sword. The Word of God brings division - between those who are perishing, and those who have eternal life.

### Today:

- John the Baptist
- Elijah?
- Kids in a candy store
- Sodom & Gomorrah

### Utmost.org 11/29

The sentimental religious movements of today have none of the rugged reality of the New Testament. Nothing in what they teach requires the death of Jesus Christ. All they require is prayer and devotion and a pious atmosphere. This type of religious experience isn't supernatural or miraculous. It didn't cost the passion of God. It isn't dyed in the blood of the Lamb or stamped with the Holy Spirit. It doesn't have the quality that makes people say with awe and wonder, "That is the work of God Almighty."

The type of Christian experience the New Testament talks about is the experience of personal, passionate devotion to the person of Jesus Christ. Every other type of so-called Christian experience is detached from the person of Jesus. There's no regeneration—no being born again into the kingdom where Christ lives—only the idea that he is a role model. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is Savior long before he is a role model. Today he is often dismissed as the mere figurehead of a religion or as an example we should follow. Jesus Christ is a figurehead and an example, but he is also infinitely more. He is Salvation itself. He is the Gospel of God.

## [Pray]

11:1-6

**Jesus sends the disciples off to preach and heal.  
But he doesn't go on vacation. He stays in Galilee.**

**He's always serving.**

**Matthew 23:11 NKJV - "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.**

**That's His father's business. Bringing people into the Kingdom.**

**His time was limited. He wasn't going to waste it.**

**Ephesians 5:16 ...redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

**How are we spending our time?**

There's time for rest, we'll hear about rest next week

**But do we redeem the time? When we have a free moment? When its our day off? How do we spend it? This is convicting!**

*Making it a point to watch less TV and have more family time. Memories. Feel like we had time together. Play monopoly.*

*Years ago reading the Bible in a year. Stopped a light, pick up the Bible.*

**When John had heard in prison**

John the baptist was in jail. What did we just study last week?

**You preach, you will be delivered up.**

**He's discouraged. He's doubting. He's wondering.**

This was Jesus' cousin.

Leaped in the womb.

Was a wild man, out in the wilderness, eating locusts and honey

Dressing in rough clothing, camel's hair

Probably looked crazy. Looked destitute.

But he wasn't.

Preached the kingdom

**Baptized Jesus! The voice from heaven and the dove!**

### **But now...in prison.**

For calling to repentance. For rebukes of the religious. For preparing the way for Jesus.

### **But Jesus is out and about. Healing. Teaching. Doing amazing things.**

#### **Not freeing John from prison.**

Remember last week? The purpose of God is to make us a witness!

#### **John wouldn't be rescued from prison or death.**

#### **And Jesus wouldn't be rescued from being arrested or the cross.**

### **John sends his disciples. Are you the Messiah? Or not?**

Jesus doesn't answer yes or no. He always wants people to see for themselves.

#### **Go and tell John the things which you hear and see**

Miracles

Poor preached to

#### **Do we see the works of God? What do we see? Do we attribute it to him?**

(Not seeking signs, but are there any that it's a work of God and not a self-help club?)

*Christmas tree - cut down, or grown for the purpose?*

### **And John (answers his cousin's heart problem directly)...do you want to be blessed? Happy? Fulfilled? Joyfull?**

#### **Don't be offended because of me.**

#### **Offended - skandalizō (very much like scandal!)**

- Stumbling block, enticed to sin,
- **Cause a person to begin to distrust and desert on whom he ought to trust and obey**
- **To cause to fall away**

**John was having a crisis of faith in prison!** He was doubting! He was wondering, "I'm in prison. Jesus is out there. Is he really God? Am I really doing God's work? Have the things I believed and preached been real or not?"

**What happens when we go through hard times? Do we blame God? Do we stop trusting God at the first hardship?**

4 Types of soil - we'll see in a few chapters

**Don't be choked out. Let the hard times** (either of your own doing or from righteous persecution) **drive you closer to God.**

## **:7-15**

**Jesus pivots here. I love that he talks John up, reminds everyone who John is, but reveals the reality of the greatness of the Kingdom and the time to come**

### **What did you go out into the wilderness to see?**

Remember where John was preaching? Away from everyone. In the dusty, dirty, dry, hot wilderness. By the river.

**Jesus strikes at their motives. You went out there for a reason. If not to repent, to see something amazing. Something different.**

### **What did you expect to see?**

### **What did you think the work of God would look like?**

*We all have expectations. What something will be like, look like, taste like. Sometimes it's completely different.*

**A reed shaken by the wind?** Just some river plant blowing in the breeze?

Jesus to Nic, born again...

**John 3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."**

**John indeed was being blown by the Spirit of God (even in leaping in the womb)**

But he wasn't just a crazy spectacle (car dealership inflatable guy)

He was doing the work of God.

**What about a man in a suit?** (soft clothes - nice clothes, dress slacks, blazer, not working clothes, not tough carhartt workwear)

*Dress for the job you want not the one you have! Play clothes and nice clothes.*

*The right clothes do all the work. Changing oil in clothes that can get oil on them - I don't worry, I work.*

**..in king's houses.** Did they expect to see someone in religious garb, clothes meant for a king? Is that what you think the kingdom of heaven looks like?

**Did you go to see a prophet?** (One who speaks forth the word of God. An office in Israel)

That's exactly who John was. A prophet. Fulfilling the office of prophet for Israel. Before the Messiah's arrival.

Fulfilling Mal 3:1

**John the Baptist was the greatest.  
But the Kingdom of Heaven is Greater.**

**John the last prophet under the law: repentance.  
Jesus the prophet of the law fulfilled: resurrection.**

The kingdom of heaven suffers violence.

John's in prison.

Prophets rejected, even killed violently. (Sawn in two)

**If you are willing to receive it...  
Not reincarnation, but fulfilling of Elijah's office**

- Elijah didn't die, taken to heaven on a chariot of fire (think rapture-like, like Enoch)
- Jews left a seat open at feasts for Elijah to return.
- Matthew 17, to come, Moses & Elijah
- Potential two witnesses in Revelation 11

**If they were looking for Elijah's return to be their prophet, speak the things of God to them, then they were looking for John.**

Who are you looking to to speak the things of God into your life? Have they passed on? An old pastor? Billy Graham? Chuck Smith? Dr. Stanley? A man of God of old?

They would point you to Jesus. They would point you to find the man of God that God is using now. He may not look the same. He may not be what you expect. But he's the one God is using.

Jesus shouts, I think, exclaims boldly. (As he'll call to Lazarus one day)

**"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**

**Are you listening? Are you hearing what God is saying hear to you? Can you see past your expectations of what you think the Kingdom looks like?** What you think a minister of God looks like? What you think ministry success is? It might be the homeless looking guy in prison who was baptizing people last week.

**:16-19**

**Well, they're not hearing. So Jesus calls them out. Describes the people of Israel in that day (in an attempt to get them to see and hear)**

**Fickle children sitting outside the candy store on a Saturday. Looking for entertainment. Not getting their friends to do what they want. Have the whole world of entertainment at their fingertips, but they're all bored. Can't be pleased. Can't see the opportunities in front of them.**

*Do kids even hang out anymore? In my day we were always out in town, rollerblading, biking, going on adventures, going to the mall*

**John didn't eat or drink. John fasting from all good things in this life and preaching holiness and repentance:**

**The people look on, "Nope, not of God. He has a demon"**

**Son of Man (Jesus) hangs out, feasts, turns water to wine, heals many - is in the world but not of it.**

**The people look on, "Nope, not of God. He's a fat drunk. Hangs out with sinners."**

## **They just can't be pleased!**

- Is that not us in our day? Our generation too?
- Is that not this generation of the church? Laodicean, neither hot or cold!
- Looking for entertainment on a Sunday!
- Looking for someone to tell them what they want to hear (itching ears)!
- Seeing the very works of God, seeing the very opportunities to go reach the lost, and not being satisfied?

Have we become so lukewarm in our faith, we can't appreciate the works of God? Are we always learning and never coming to the truth? Are we just hopping from one church to another, always dissatisfied? Can we not see a work of God when it's happening?

*Not that there aren't valid complaints or lack in the Christian world that needs a real move of God...*

**But is it, oh, but the music isn't good enough, not my style. Oh, but the preacher wears a suit. Oh, the drive is 5 minutes too far, and this is convenient. Those are the sounds of a child in the marketplace who can never be pleased! Someone in it for themselves, not for**

**God.**

***The “ministry” of criticism...that only justifies one’s own lack of spiritual pursuit***

Step out! Give it an honest try. Pray and ask God if it’s the right place for you. Don’t settle for something that’s not a work of God. But when you see God working, get closer. Get more involved. Let your expectations be changed.

**Why? Jesus is coming back soon. We need to be found faithful. Ready and waiting and working.**

**I see it and hear it all the time. Even more so at home here vs back east.** I know you’ve been hurt. I know you’ve been let down. I know you’re dissatisfied with the lack of perfection in the church (so is God). But we must BE THE CHURCH despite what others have done. Because God has called us to BE THE CHURCH.

**Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJV - And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

**:20-24**

**The cities did not repent.**

Kind of amazing, no? Imagine if we saw healings, heard amazing teaching, rebukes of the religious and calls to repentance here in Helena? And did nothing?

*...Wait...isn’t that basically how America has been? We’ve run in the opposite direction of Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, Chuck Smith, Greg Laurie, Charles Stanley, etc. etc. etc. ... and turned to charlatans, tv money-hungry false teachers, the View, MSNBC, movie stars, witchcraft...*

DGC “The greater light requires greater accountability”

**What does Jesus do? Does he beg them? Does he kill them with kindness?  
No. He rebukes them.**

**Upbraid - revile, reproach (deservedly), cast in one’s teeth**  
Remember, Jesus vomits the lukewarm last-days “church”

**He says S&G will have it better on the day of judgment.**

They were destroyed quickly, almost in an instant. Kind of a good judgment on earth. Quick death. Other places suffer long, slow painful deaths. Think of America's decline. Europe's. Russias. Israel time and again in scripture. All places who have heard the gospel. Seen the works of God. And eventually rejected it. The judgment was always more severe.

*Romans 1 abandonment judgment*

**There is a day of judgment coming. The people of these cities will be there. And they will have to give an account to God.**

**Yes, I saw Jesus. Yes. I heard John the baptist.**

**No. I didn't believe. No. I rejected. No. I yelled crucify Him.**

**Where will we stand? What have we seen and heard in our lives?**

It's guaranteed God has been trying to reach us our entire lives.

And if he has. Great. What have we done with the revelation? With the salvation?

**The lack of "success" of Jesus' ministry**

God himself is rejected: judgment or repentance, both fulfill God's will. Jesus' job was to preach - **to give the choice. It's up to the hearer to accept or reject.**

What more do we expect of our own ministries?

**Parenting and the garden**

**V19 "Wisdom is justified by her children."**

The fruits of an action reveal if it's really wise or not.

What good really comes out of it. What happens as a result of our action.

If we've met Jesus. Received Him. Know His salvation's cost for us.

We will be different.

We will be persecuted.

We won't look like what others expect of us when God does a work in us.

**1 John 1:6-7 NKJV - If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**Let God's work bear fruit in you. You've seen. Believe.**