

## Chapter Eleven

### *Explaining John the Baptist*

#### I. Introduction to Chapter 11

- A. We are not quite to the middle of Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry. At this point, it is still probably around the \_\_\_\_\_ year, and He is still heavily involved in two things: Teaching and Miracles
- B. The last year of Christ's ministry, He will focus almost exclusively on \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Jesus is now finished with teaching His twelve Disciples. In Chapter 10, Jesus has empowered them, and made them Apostles.
- D. What were the things Christ commanded His Disciples? (11:1; 10:5-15)
  - 1. **To minister to the lost sheep of \_\_\_\_\_.** Christ's FIRST calling was to His own people (John 1:10,11; Mt 1:21)
  - 2. **To Preach** (10:7) The coming kingdom of heaven – “\_\_\_\_\_”
  - 3. **To Restore** (10:8) – restoring the work of the devil (John 10:10)
  - 4. **To Pray** (Acts 6:4) – praying is a ministry
  - 5. **To minister not just in the Temple, or in Church buildings, but from House to House** (10:11; Mk 1:38; Act 2:46; 5:42)
  - 6. **To minister All for Free** (10:8b)
  - 7. **To minister All by Faith** (10:9,10)
  - 8. \_\_\_\_\_ (10:16) – even though the Apostles had great power – like Elijah did (2Kings 1:10; Lk 9:54; 10:17,20)
  - 9. **To Beware of \_\_\_\_\_** (10:17-27) “\_\_\_\_\_” (10:22)
  - 10. **To Be on the Move** - Keep Moving (10:23) Go into every city – specifically only in Israel
  - 11. **To Beware of \_\_\_\_\_** (10:24-36).
    - a. Don't even fear \_\_\_\_\_ (10:28-31)
    - b. Don't fear \_\_\_\_\_ (10:32-39)
  - 12. **Be a \_\_\_\_\_ in this World** (10:40-42)
- E. Now, Jesus will teach the crowds, and the number of His disciples will explode in numbers

#### II. Lesson – Explaining John the Baptist – Matthew Chapter 11

- A. **Jesus Answers John the Baptist's Questions** (11:2-6)
  - 1. John the Baptist is in \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. John is \_\_\_\_\_, and full of doubts
  - 3. John has his own disciples
  - 4. This explains a lot
    - a. Several groups were very offended at Jesus – Jesus was NOT what they expected
      - 1) Matthew 13:54-58 \_\_\_\_\_ people
      - 2) Matthew 15:12 The \_\_\_\_\_
      - 3) Matthew 17:27 Jesus did not want to offend the Romans
      - 4) Matthew 26:31 Every disciple would ultimately be offended at Jesus
    - b. Even with John the Baptist, Jesus was doing the \_\_\_\_\_ – not come and visit him; not get him released, but rather focus His attention mainly up in Galilee
    - c. Jesus was on a one-track course: He came and did a lot of healing, but not everyone was healed, and freed. His purpose was \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. Jesus responded that His works prove who He is
      - 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
- 7) All are fulfilments of Isaiah 35:1-8, and 61
- 5. Jesus adds that, there is a special blessing on those who do not get offended at how life turns out – God will always make everything up to us, when endured for Him!

### B. Jesus Teaches About John the Baptist (11:7-19)

1. Hundreds of thousands of people (think about it) went out into the wilderness – to see what?
2. But what did you see out there in the wilderness (Cf Isa 40)?
  - a. A \_\_\_\_\_. It has been over 400 years since Malachi, so this was unusual
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ than a prophet – this is the HERALD – the fore-runner of the Messiah!
  - c. John was \_\_\_\_\_ in practice (had the spirit of Elijah)
  - d. But God, knowing that Israel would reject Jesus, did not send Elijah literally YET
  - e. Remember, that Elijah WILL have his head cut off one day, just as John did (Rev 11)
  - f. John's Baptism
    - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ – fulfilment of prophecies stating that the Messiah would have a herald
    - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ – John's baptism was a Baptism of Repentance, to prepare people to accept the Messiah
    - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ – to the Jews only
3. John was the Greatest Man to ever live
  - a. Jesus had to be MORE than just a man to not be less than John the Baptist!!! The GOD-Man
  - b. Those in the kingdom of heaven are greater than John born in the kingdom of this world (Cf Mt 4:8) Those born again (via the new covenant) are greater than the BEST that the Old Covenant could produce!
4. There is a battle for the coming kingdom of heaven – the \_\_\_\_\_
5. All the Old Testament prophets pointed to John/Elijah and the coming kingdom
6. John was Elijah – just not literally, in the flesh yet, but he had the spirit of Elijah (Cf 2King 2:9)
7. But the generation in Jesus' day is like children
8. But they could not manipulate neither John nor Jesus
  - a. John was a Nazarite – never ate much or drank hardly anything at all – and yet called demon-possessed – “weird”
  - b. Jesus was a friend of sinners and came eating with people and drinking (not alcohol) and yet He was slammed as glutinous a drunkard!
9. “But wisdom is justified of her children” – It simply means that the wisest truths are not proven until the fruit is grown – until it is seen in the next generation!

### C. Jesus Rebukes Galilean Cities For \_\_\_\_\_ (11:20-24)

1. “Upbraid” means to \_\_\_\_\_ – take to task
2. Most of His mighty works were done in \_\_\_\_\_ in Galilee
3. Yet the people were rebuked because \_\_\_\_\_! The purpose of the Lord working in their midst was to get them to repent
4. He mentions three towns:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_!
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_!
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_!
5. Compares God’s works among them and Sodom, and Tyre and Sidon
  - a. If the mighty works had been in Sodom, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
  - b. It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.



- c. In other words, Sodom forfeited their right to getting another chance because of the sin of sodomy, but if even as sodomites, they had seen the works of Christ, they would have repented!
  - 6. Jesus hit especially at Capernaum in Mat 11:23 and attacks their PRIDE!
  - 7. Shows that Sodom will get less judgment than Capernaum, and Chorazin and Bethsaida (11:24)
- D. Jesus is Thankful For How the Gospel is Understood (11:25-26)
- E. Jesus Explains How the Gospel is Experienced (11:27-30)
- 1. God gave \_\_\_\_\_ to Himself, to His Son
  - 2. Some strong questions:
    - a. How can anyone come to Jesus, if He is spiritually dead? (Cf 1Pet 4:6)
    - b. How can anyone DEAD come to Him of their own free will, if they have no free will?
    - c. So the Calvinist will declare that God draws people – which is correct; but why does Jesus give those coming the impression that they were to do it of their own free will?
    - d. We are spiritually dead towards God, but not towards truth
    - e. Truth can draw us to God
  - 3. Jesus asks for an exchange
    - a. Swap out the yoke and bondage of sin – very heavy
    - b. For the light yoke of discipleship – learning to live like Jesus