

## A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 11 v. 11-19

- **After Jesus explains that John the Baptist was the prophet told about in Malachi 3:1, Jesus talks about the blessings that those in the Kingdom of Heaven have. (v. 11).**
  - Is Jesus trying to discredit the work that John the Baptist did? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Absolutely not! Jesus is praising the work that John the Baptist did, but he is also proving a point about the Church here.
  - Was John the Baptist a part of the New Testament Church? \_\_\_\_\_
    - At this point no, because the Church had not yet been established.  
Read Matthew 16:18.
    - John the Baptist is certainly a part of the Kingdom of Heaven, but he was not a part of the New Testament Church and wouldn't be in his lifetime.
  - What is Jesus meaning then when he says those that are a part of the Kingdom of Heaven are "greater" than John the Baptist? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Greater at this point isn't meant in terms of "ranking", but instead those who are a part of the Church are blessed! Read 1 Peter 1:10-12.
    - John the Baptist prophesied about Jesus and a salvation that would be brought to fruition outside of his own lifetime, and that he would never see in his own life. As present day believers we are blessed to be able to study how God's plan of redemption came to be, and to have Hope that we know how it will end.
  
- **Jesus continues by saying that though people are blessed to be a part of the Kingdom of Heaven (Church), some people will try to manipulate it. (v. 12)**
  - What were some of the people or group's that had caused violence against the Church?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - Though the church was still in the process of being established, there were still people that wanted to manipulate and "take" the church to fit it into what they wanted it to be. Is that something that we see today? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Jesus is making an important point to the people here. The Church is not meant to be established in what people want it to be, but instead we must make sure that the Church remains what God calls it to be.
  
- **Jesus goes on to then let the people know that He is the Messiah that was promised. (v. 13-15).**
  - This section of Chapter 11 can be very confusing without a little background knowledge.
    - Was John the Baptist an actual reincarnation of the prophet Elijah? \_\_\_\_\_.  
Read John 1:25-27
  - Of course John was not, nor did he claim to be! Since that is the case, what is Jesus referring to here? Read Malachi 4:5.

- Though John the Baptist was not a literal reincarnation of Elijah, he is the prophet that was told about in Malachi 4:5. Jesus is telling the people that even though it's not how they thought he would appear, John the Baptist is the prophet told about.
  - Jesus finishes this section by saying "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Is Jesus telling the people to just listen? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Jesus isn't just telling the people to just listen but to more importantly understand what he is telling them. If John the Baptist is the Elijah that was prophesied about, then Jesus is also explaining that he is the Messiah that was promised as well!
- **After calling the people to repent and recognize who Jesus is, Jesus points out that despite knowing the truth some people will never follow Him. (v. 16-19).**
  - What does Jesus compare the people to in the beginning of this section? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Much like some children will choose to play while others sit back and pout, Jesus is stating that despite knowing the truth some people will choose to be contrary and will never accept Him as the Messiah.
  - What issue did people claim to have with John the Baptist when he came to prophesy about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
  - What issue do the people have with Jesus now that he has come to minister to them? \_\_\_\_\_
    - The people took issue with John the Baptist because he distanced himself from the world and things of sin, then the same people took issue with Jesus because he took time to minister with sinners. This shows that the issue that people had wasn't with John the Baptist or Jesus, but instead their own decisions to blatantly refuse to accept them or their message.
  - "Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds". What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_
    - Another way to describe this sentence is "you'll reap what you sow." Those who choose to follow Jesus will be justified because of their willingness to understand and obey his Word, and those who refuse to do so will face the repercussions of their decision.