

# Matthew 11 – 20 October 2019

## “Adjusting Expectations”

### “The Kingdom of Heaven is not what you think”

#### Introduction

Matt 5-7 – The teachings of the Kingdom

Matt 8-9 – Jesus’ first healings and one on one compassion toward the people

Matt 10, Jesus sends the 12 to conduct their own mission on His behalf (to declare the Kingdom is coming)

But what does that look like (that the Kingdom is coming)?

Would the people understand how & when Jesus would bring the Kingdom?

**This chapter shows us 3 ways that Jesus adjusts their expectations about the Kingdom to come**

# **#1 - He asks them to adjust their expectations of when the Kingdom will come (Vs 1-6)**

Read Vs 1-3

1. John's situation
  - a. John is frustrated about the timing.
  - b. He's in prison and ready for a change
  - c. "If you're the One, why aren't you setting up the Kingdom now?"
2. Our situation
  - a. We don't ever get frustrated about timing, do we?
  - b. We find ourselves in a bad situation and want a change.
  - c. "God if you called me to this, then why isn't it like I thought it would be?"

Read Vs 4-5

1. John can know that Jesus is the One based on what Jesus is doing.
2. Jesus never does answer the 'when' question.

3. In Christ's delay, the time is used for compassion on people.
  - a. II Pet 3:8-9
4. Goes both ways
  - a. Christians want Christ's return now
  - b. Unbelievers want Christ's return to wait
    - i. Read Matt 24:38-39

## Read Vs 6

1. Many are offended with Christ's delay
  - a. Would John be offended that Christ wasn't going to get him out of prison?
  - b. We want our physical problem solved now, rather than have others spiritual condition eternally changed before Christ's return.
  - c. Are we willing to suffer a little longer in order to bring many more sons and daughter to Christ?
  - d. John should instead be encouraged that Jesus IS the One he was waiting for!

## **#2 - He asks them to adjust their expectations of who & what the Kingdom is made of (Vs 7-11)**

Read Vs 7-11

1. Many people would have lost faith in John's teaching b/c he's now in prison.
2. Many seem to lose their faith when God's plan for their life goes thru hard circumstances.
  - a. The same happened when Jesus suffered
  - b. Turn to Luke 24:13-27 esp 21 & 25
3. The kingdom is made of those willing to live for Christ, no matter the cost.
4. The kingdom is made of those who expect a little push back from time to time.
5. John wasn't a failure b/c he was in prison.
6. John was the greatest b/c he served Christ unbiased toward men.
7. Vs 11 – our position in the kingdom will be even greater than that of John's.
  - a. Darkest day is still brighter than brightest of nights.

## Read 12-15

1. Much debated verse of scripture
2. Its exact meaning doesn't change any essential doctrine of the Bible
3. "The kingdom of heaven suffers violence" seems to indicate the kingdom is now under great spiritual warfare.
4. "The violent (or forceful ones) take it by (harpazo) or by snatching it.
5. It isn't the lazy, passive, lukewarm efforts of people that will gain entrance to the kingdom.
  - a. Read Heb 4:11a
  - b. John's ministry was intense.
    - i. There should be an intensity for those who seek God.

## **#3 - He asks them to adjust their expectations of how the Kingdom is made (Vs 16-19)**

## Read Vs 16-19

1. The method the gospel is given shouldn't matter but that the gospel is given!
2. The substance of the message is what matters not the presentation or the wrapping paper.
3. Some won't receive the gospel, not b/c of the presentation but b/c their heart is set on other goals
4. When your heart is set on one thing and you get another, you'll always be unsatisfied regardless of how great the thing you received is.
5. They complained about John and Jesus' presentation not b/c of the method but b/c they didn't want to receive the substance.
6. Are you able to encourage the godliness in people regardless of the clothing or piercings?
7. Are you able to encourage the godliness in people regardless of the blandness or smarts?
8. Having just one set method isn't Jesus' way.
  - a. Healings & teachings in many ways.
  - b. Having set methods is Satan's way
    - i. Read Eph 6:11

**There are two reaction when given something special that isn't what you expected.**

- 1. Rejection of the gift**
- 2. Acceptance of the gift**

Read Vs 20-24

1. These Jewish cities were given a precious gift, but it was different than what they wanted or expected.
2. They rejected Christ & the gospel b/c
  - a. It wasn't when they wanted it.
  - b. It wasn't made up of the people they wanted.
  - c. It wasn't brought about how they wanted it to be brought about.
3. We've been blessed with much great knowledge of Christ & the gospel. We're accountable to take action and believe it!

## Read Vs 25-27

1. Those who would accept the gospel as humble children in faith would receive the blessing.
2. As Christians we would say, “Our Christian life hasn’t gone the way we would expect it to.... but God has never let me down”.

## Read Vs 28

1. People expect to earn what they receive, but what if the price is so high you could never earn it, and you really need it?
2. Jesus offer rest from the struggle of trying to earn eternal life.

## Read Vs 29-30

1. The way to eternal life has no struggle, Christ took the struggle. Double-yoked w/ Him, He does all the work.
2. This is continual growth (learn of me)

## Conclusion –

We've seen three ways Jesus wants to adjust our expectations of the Kingdom

1. He wants to adjust our expectation of when the Kingdom will come.
  - a. Are you willing to wait for it to allow more people into the kingdom?
2. He wants to adjust our expectations of who & what the Kingdom is made of.
  - a. Are you living for Christ regardless of whether it brings hardship or not?
3. He wants to adjust our expectations of how the Kingdom is made.
  - a. Many styles in which to serve Christ, but only one Jesus Christ to serve.