

Kingdom Members

Matt 11:3-15



Matthew 11:

3 and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?" 4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. 6 "And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."



Matthew 11:

7 As these men were going *away*, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 "But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' palaces! 9 "But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. 10 "This is the one about whom it is



Matthew 11:

written, 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.' 11 "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the **kingdom of heaven** is greater than he. 12 "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.



Matthew 11:

13 "For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 "And if you are willing to accept *it*, John himself is Elijah who was to come. 15 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

*"And blessed is he who does not
take offense at Me."*



The Forerunner

- . Dresses in out of date clothing
- . Offends religious and powerful
- . Never did a miracle, wrote a book...
- . Gave away his disciples; said "not me!"

John the Baptist

· Out of the wilderness preach repentance

· Wasting away in Herod's prison

· The methods, message and miracles...

· Asks Jesus, "are you..." heteros...

The "in" crowd

Blind, lame, lepers, deaf and dead...

Poor hear the gospel

Offense? skandalizo

Are we put off by God's ways?

What was He?

. Political "flip-flop" & People pleaser??

. Well-dressed influencer? Like Herod?

. Prophet? Yes and much more!

. My messenger - "Behold the Lamb!"

The Last vs. the Least!

Of those born of women - none greater!

Moses, Elijah, David, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther

Least in the KINGDOM is greater!

Born of Spirit, new birthrights!

Born of grace, inheritance in Christ

Violence!

. Kingdom suffering violence -

. taken by force - clutching, pulling, seizing

. Overthrow of your self-rule = repentance

. Change of lifestyle... "fruit you bear"

...the kingdom of heaven suffers
violence, and violent men take it
by force.