



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



True Greatness

Matthew 11:7–15



Matthew 11:7–9

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.”



Matthew 11:10–11

¹⁰ “This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has
arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is
least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”



Matthew 11:12–15

¹² “From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John,

¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.

¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”



1. Unwavering conviction (11:7)

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?”



Matthew 3:5

Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him...



2. Unworldly character (11:8)

⁸ “What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.”



3. Clear witness (11:9–10)

⁹ “What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.” ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’”



Matthew 14:5

...the people... held him to be a prophet.



Malachi 3:1

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me...”



Malachi 4:5

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.”



Malachi 3:1

“Behold, I send my messenger,
and he will prepare the way before me...”

Matthew 11:10

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”



4. Christian discipleship (11:11)

¹¹ “Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”



5. Humble submission (11:12–15)

¹² “From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”



Malachi 4:5

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.”



Matthew 17:12–13

¹² But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.”

¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.



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