

NEVER
SATISFIED.



Wisdom's Vindication

BIBLE BACKGROUND- MATTHEW 11:1-19

PRINTED TEXT- MATTHEW 11:7-19 | DEVOTIONAL READING- MATTHEW 10:14

JULY 5, 2020

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON BY : SISTER KELLY N. NEAL – SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to Zion Temple Virtual Sunday School !!!!

PRAISE THE LORD EVERYONE!!!

As a courtesy Please Mute Your Devices !!!

🌀🌀 Announcements 🌀🌀

Reopening of the Church July 12, 2020 @ 11:30 am

You can have access to all of the Sunday School PowerPoints on our church website: www.ztfpc.com

(Click on the Christian Education Link)

Wisdom is the Principle Thing Therefore Get Wisdom, and with all Thy Getting, Get Understanding!!

Devotional Reading

Matthew 10:1-14

- ▶ 10 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.
- ▶ 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;
- ▶ 3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;
- ▶ 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.
- ▶ 5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
- ▶ 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- ▶ 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- ▶ 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.
- ▶ 9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,
- ▶ 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.
- ▶ 11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

Words you should know:

- ▶ **Eschatological**- Occuring in the end times, after the final judgement.
- ▶ **Soteriological**- Relating to the doctrine of salvation through Jesus Christ

Wisdom

It is important to remember that.....
Wisdom happens in Stages not Ages!!

The Fig Tree Explained

- ▶ The most common reason for a fig tree not producing fruit is simply its age. ... If the fig tree is not old enough to produce seeds, it will also not produce fruit. Typically, a fig tree will not fruit until it reaches two years old, but it can take some trees as long as six years to reach the right maturity



The Idea of Expectation

- ▶ **Expectation:** a strong belief that something that will happen or be the case in the future.
- ▶ What we expect of people will often be what shapes what we experience of them.

BACKGROUND

- ▶ By the time we reach Matthew 11, Jesus has just told his disciples to go first among the Jewish people, preaching the coming of the kingdom of heaven. One recurring theme in the Gospels, however, is the hardness of heart of the people who hear the good news of Christ's coming, an outcome similar to what Isaiah experienced in his prophetic ministry.
- ▶ When Jesus utters the words of Matthew 11:7-19 to the crowd. He does so immediately after responding to John's inquiry about His identity. At this point, John the Baptist is in prison, and he sends a disciple to ask Christ whether He is the Messiah. Jesus responds by saying that He is the fulfillment of Isaiah 35:5-6, which is as close to an affirmative response as John is going to get. Jesus then proceeds to discuss the relationship between his and John the Baptist's ministry, explaining John's role as the forerunner of the Messiah.
- ▶ All of this takes place to reshape the people's view of what kind of Messiah they ought to expect. Many, especially those associated with the zealots political party, expected the Messiah to be a military hero, ready and willing to violently free the Lord's people from oppression. Jesus in His ministry continually subverts such expectations.

Recap: What Happened In Chapter 10 that has led up to What is going on in Chapter 11?

- ▶ In chapter 10 we see that by now Jesus has chosen His disciples and
- ▶ He has spent time with them and He is prepared to send them out. These are people who have walked away from their personal lives and to give up all to follow Jesus.
- ▶ Now Jesus sends them out to what is their most difficult assignment ever, to proclaim the Kingdom of God.
- ▶ Jesus himself goes out into the region to preach.



Aim For Change

- ▶ By the end of the lesson, we will : **EXPLAIN** how the different actions of Jesus and John the Baptist not displayed divine wisdom. **FEEL** encouraged to behave in ways that follow Jesus even when they are contrary to people's expectations, and **REVIEW** our own behavior to determine in reflects godly wisdom.

Keep In Mind

- ▶ “The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children”
- ▶ **(Matthew 11:19, KJV)**

*The Son of man did come eating and drinking, still people say, 'Look! A man gluttonous and given to drinking wine, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' All the same, wisdom is proved righteous by its works.”
Matthew 11:19*

Focal Verses

- ▶ 7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?
- ▶ 8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.
- ▶ 9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.
- ▶ 10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
- ▶ 11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
- ▶ 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.
- ▶ 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.
- ▶ 14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.
- ▶ 15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.
- ▶ 16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,
- ▶ 17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.
- ▶ 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.
- ▶ 19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

The Disciples of John the Baptist



John the Baptist Mouth gets him in trouble!!

- ▶ John the Baptist was The forerunner of Jesus Christ
- ▶ John the Baptist is The Cousin of Jesus Christ
- ▶ His assignment: Preaching and Teaching about the coming of Jesus
- ▶ At this time John the Baptist is imprisoned by King Herod of Antipas
- ▶ **The Gospels of Matthew (Matthew 14:1–12) and Mark (Mark 6:14–29) recorded that Herod Antipas had John the Baptist arrested and imprisoned after the preacher condemned the king's marriage to his wife, Herodias, as illegal, because she had previously been married to his own brother, Philip.**

Important to Note

(John the Baptist was in Prison at this time)

- ▶ John the Baptist was coming from a place from a place of disappointment!! He sends a message from prison to Jesus and it appears to be a message that lacks faith!! He was discouraged. He has done this and he is wondering himself (I've be loyal and faithful to you. I have been faithful to my ministry and I have told the people that you are the one is coming to set the captive free, but I'm in prison. Are you the one?)
- ▶ He is now feeling as though he is being rejected!!

John the Baptist Lost his head because he is
was loyal and dedicated to Jesus Christ



The Beheading of John The Baptist

- ▶ According to the Synoptic Gospels, Herod, who was tetrarch, or sub-king, of Galilee under the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John the Baptist because he reproved Herod for divorcing his wife (Phasaelis, daughter of King Aretas of Nabataea) and unlawfully taking Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip I.
- ▶ On Herod's birthday, Herodias' daughter (whom Josephus identifies as Salome) danced before the king and his guests. Her dancing pleased Herod so much that in his drunkenness he promised to give her anything she desired, up to half of his kingdom. When Salome asked her mother what she should request, she was told to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Although Herod was appalled by the request, he reluctantly agreed and had John executed in the prison.[1]

Jesus and His Disciples are preparing to go out
and Proclaim the Kingdom of God!!



JESUS SPEAKS TO THE MULTITUDE ABOUT WHAT THEY JUST HEARD FROM JOHN THE BAPTIST



Jesus uses questions to help the people see their conditions

- ▶ They were fickle. Immature, lacked seriousness and very picky .They were like children
- ▶ They complained and murmured about everything. I sent you one prophet you didn't like him, I send you another prophet and you complained about him.
- ▶ You are passing judgement on the prophets because people are dancing to the sound of your flute playing!!
- ▶ They were selfish and entitled. They were so focused on their expectations of John but they didn't realize why they shouldn't be criticizing anyone
- ▶ You should not be focusing on the prophets but the results of their ministry. Wisdom is proven not by what you think about the prophet but the effectiveness of their message. The fruit of their ministry is not decided by the opinions of people but the effectiveness of their message.
- ▶ God is not guided by what the people expect but he measures people by the word that He has put in you. Stay focused on what God desires from us not the opinions of the people. It's not about what we wear, and what people think and how they think that you should be doing things, don't let the world manipulate or take advantage of you. Watch wanting God's plans to conform to the way that we want them to go. It may not seem to line up or make sense to us but the fruit will be for the benefit of the Kingdom of God. It is results that counteract what people say. Don't battle with your words but with results.!!!

The Feeding of the 5,000

The Feeding of the 5,000 is also known as the "miracle of the five loaves and two fishes"; the Gospel of John reports that Jesus used five loaves and two fishes supplied by a boy to feed a multitude. According to Matthew's gospel, when Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been killed, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Luke specifies that the place was near Bethsaida. The crowds followed Jesus on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

Jesus said that they did not need to go away, and therefore the disciples were to give them something to eat. They said that they only had five loaves and two fishes, which Jesus asked to be brought to him. Jesus directed the people to sit down in groups on the grass. In Mark's Gospel, the crowds sat in groups of 50 and 100,[1] and in Luke's Gospel, Jesus' instructions were to seat the crowd in groups of 50,[2] implying that there were 100 such groups.

Taking the five loaves and the two fishes and looking up to Heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve baskets full of broken pieces that were leftover. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, beside women and children. In John's Gospel, the multitude has been attracted around Jesus because of the healing works he has performed, and the feeding of the multitude is taken as a further sign (Greek: σημεῖον) that Jesus is the Messiah, the prophet who (according to the promise in the Book of Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 18:15)) is to come into the world" (John 6:14).[3]

John Remained Strong!!!

- ▶ John was different; He dressed differently'
- ▶ He was not soft, His life was rugged
- ▶ His diet was LOCUST and WILD HONEY
- ▶ He took advantage of Isolation so that he can hear from God
- ▶ He was a Prophet and So much more
- ▶ Born at a specific time and for a specific purpose
- ▶ His job would be the voice of the coming of the Messiah to prepare the way of the Lord.
- ▶ He spoke truth even to his detriment
- ▶ For His time John was considered the Greatest by Jesus

He who is in the least in the Kingdom will be greater than John???

Meaning Explained:

- ▶ For John's time and his purpose he was the greatest but whoever is the least in the Kingdom is greater than John the Baptist.
- ▶ The Kingdom of God is advancing and is under attack always but those who are learning of God in this day and who are getting the results that He desires, they will be the greatest in the Kingdom.
- ▶ They will not dress like or look like the former house, the latter house shall be greater because of their impact on the world!

A reed shaken in the wind meaning (v. 7)

- ▶ Reeds blow in the wind because they have no backbone and do whatever the wind wants. If the wind pushes one direction the reed will go with it; it's a wind sock. You could compare a Reed to a spineless person as soon as adversity comes they change direction.



A man clothed in soft raiment

- ▶ In raiment made of soft materials, as fine wool, cotton, silk such as Mecaenos wore, and who was therefore called Malacinus F25: one finely dressed, and richly apparelled, draws the eyes of persons to him; but such an one is not to be expected in a wilderness: and if the Jews went to see such a person, they were greatly disappointed; for John's raiment was of camel's hair, undressed, and he had a leathern girdle about his loins; and as for his diet, it was locusts and wild honey:
no,

The People, Places, and Times

- ▶ **John the Baptist.** Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, preached a message of repentance. John was called to be a spokesman for God's truth. By living in the wilderness, he kept himself apart from the daily distractions of others and devoted himself to prayer and meditation. When he came out among the crowds to deliver his message, those who heard him were mesmerized by his words. John was careful not to draw attention to himself, a temptation that would compromise lesser men. He kept his attention focused on his mission- to announce the coming of the Messiah.

IN DEPTH

1.) What Did You Expect? (Matthew 11:7-11)

- ▶ In John the Baptist, the crowd might have been looking for a physically imposing, well-dressed man. After all, he was said to be a prophet of God, even Elijah, the one who would herald the coming Messiah. But such is not the way of the biblical prophets. Whether one thinks of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea, or any of the other biblical prophets, they did not come with luxury but with lives of difficulty. Jesus reminds the people that John the Baptist is no different.
- ▶ Instead, John is the last of the long line of biblical prophets upon whom the Spirit rested, but only for a time. The astonishing turn is the second half of verse 11, when Jesus says, “notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than (John).”
- ▶ The Christian believer is greater than the last of the greater than the last of the great biblical prophets. Indeed, we are because the Holy Spirit does not rest upon the one who is united to Christ for only a short time. By the instrument of faith, the Holy Spirit indwells that believer, inaugurating a relationship with the Lord, the likes of which had never been seen before.

???Questions???

- ▶ **When have you met someone and been surprised when you found out their occupation?**
- ▶ **When have you met someone and been surprised that they were a fellow believer?**

In Depth

2.) Rebellion Breeds Foolish (vv. 12-19)

- ▶ Here, Jesus states that John indeed came in the spirit of the foretold Elijah predicted by the prophets, but Jesus also chides the people for not giving Him the respect that he deserves as a messenger of the Lord's word.
- ▶ The final two verses bring this critique to a head. The people critiqued John for his fasting, both from normal food and from alcohol, saying that he was possessed by a demon. John's call for austerity and repentance rubbed them the wrong way.
- ▶ But when Jesus came welcoming sinners and eating and drinking with them, He was critiqued for the company He kept. In short, there are some people who will criticize you no matter what you do. What is most important is that you are faithful to the Lord in the midst of your situation.
- ▶ Both John and Jesus were messengers of the Word who were not discouraged by the rebellion of their hearers.

???Questions???

- ▶ **Have you ever been frustrated by someone who not understanding you?**
- ▶ **How did you address that frustration?**

???Questions???

- ▶ Spreading gossip reflects poorly on the people who spread it.
- ▶ How do we close our ears and heart to it when it is spread?
- ▶ When should we speak up?

Lesson in our Society

- ▶ **Christ's Declaration that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist ought to fill us with hope and confidence. If John was the greatest of those born of women (as we all are born), how much greater are we with the indwelling Holy Spirit! With this in mind, the battle against sin becomes one that we are readily equipped for. When despair and frustration attack us in the journey of this Christian life, we must remember these words of Jesus and the fact that even He had discouraging moments in His ministry. But as in His case, wisdom is justified by her deeds and so also your vindication will come. Continue to fight on!!!**