

## Matthew 11:1-19 John the Baptist Questions Jesus

While Disciples are on Their Preaching Tour - Jesus Does the Same

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

### John the Baptist questions Jesus

2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples [3](#) and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" [4](#) Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: [5](#) The blind see 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 is not offended because of Me."

### Jesus identifies John the Baptist as Elijah

[7](#) As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning 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 clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. [9](#) But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. [10](#) For this is he of whom it is written:

'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

[11](#) "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who 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 suffers 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 receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. [15](#) He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

### This Generation Like Children Playing

[16](#) But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, [17](#) and saying:

'We played the flute for you,  
And you did not dance;  
We mourned to you,  
And you did not lament.'

[18](#) "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' [19](#) "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a gluttonous man and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- † The twelve Disciples departed two by two on their ministry tour as Jesus had commanded them. [Matthew 10:1-42]
- † While they are gone, Jesus does His own preaching tour through the cities of Galilee. [Matthew 11:1]

### John the Baptist questions Jesus

- † When John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another? [Matthew 11:2-3, Luke 7:18-20]

- ✧ It is easy to understand why John would ask this question of Jesus.
  - ✧ Before being imprisoned, John had introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. [\[John 1:29-30\]](#)
  - ✧ John had identified Jesus as the Son of God and gave His compelling evidence to confirm it. [\[John 1:31-34\]](#)
  - ✧ John had said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." [\[John 3:30\]](#)
  - ✧ John knew the Scripture that spoke of Jesus, saying:  
 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me  
 To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
 To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are  
 bound; [\[Isaiah 61:1\]](#)
- ✧ John expected Jesus to set him free from prison.
- ✧ Because of His faithfulness in ministry, and the fact that they were close relatives, it is natural for John to expect to receive a position of honor in the Kingdom Jesus would bring to the world.
- ✧ John had been a faithful servant of God in all his ministry, and now he is sitting in prison awaiting his death, so he sent his disciples to Jesus with the question.

Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another? [\[Matthew 11:3, Luke 7:20\]](#)

#### **Answer to John The Baptist**

- † Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see 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. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." [\[Matthew 11:4-6, Luke 7:21-23\]](#)
  - ✧ In other words, Jesus is saying, John is a true man of God and he will understand. Just give him the evidence.
- † John's disciples returned to John with this answer.

#### **Jesus identifies John the Baptist as Elijah** [\[Matthew 11:7-14, Luke 7:24-28\]](#)

- † John would have loved to hear the words Jesus spoke about him to the multitude.
  - ✧ John was the fulfillment of the prophecy of the messenger who would go ahead of Yehowah to prepare the way for His ministry. [\[Isaiah 40:3, Luke 1:17, 76\]](#)
  - ✧ John was the greatest of the prophets that had come to Israel. [\[Matthew 11:11\]](#)
  - ✧ And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. [\[Luke 7:29\]](#)
  - ✧ But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him. [\[Luke 7:30\]](#)
- † To be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, is of much greater importance, than to be a prophet of whatever greatness. [\[Matthew 11:11\]](#)
- † From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. [\[Matthew 11:12, Luke 16:16\]](#)
  - ✧ Jesus is stating that from the beginning of the preaching of the Kingdom of Heaven which was the message of John the Baptist, there has been violent opposition to the doctrine from the religious and political leaders.
  - ✧ The evidence of this truth is seen by the opposition from the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, Lawyers, Sanhedrin, Priests, and the Herodians.
  - ✧ Even at the time these words were spoken, Herod has John locked in prison because of the message John had spoken against him because of his marriage to Herodias. [\[Matthew 14:1-12, Mark 6:17-29, Luke 3:19-20\]](#)

- ◊ The violent did indeed oppose the Gospel of the Kingdom to the point that they crucified Jesus, imprisoned and killed all the Apostles along with all Christians they could catch.
- ◊ Saul was one who did his utmost to destroy Christianity by force before Jesus stopped him on the road to Damascus and his name was changed to Paul the Apostle. [Acts 8:3, 9:1-22]
- † All the prophets and the law prophesied until John. [Matthew 11:13]
  - ◊ The books of Moses (the first 5 books of the Bible) and all the prophets, foretold the time of the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - ◊ Until the coming of John the Baptist, the message of the mystery of the Kingdom of God had been kept hidden. [Matthew 11:12-13, Luke 16:16, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Ephesians 3:8-12, Colossians 1:24-27]
  - ◊ An enormous amount of information pertaining to the Kingdom of God was revealed in the law and the prophets, but it was concealed in the messages and not plainly discernable until John brought it out specifically.
  - ◊ John was the first to introduce the Kingdom of God to Israel as he began his ministry saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." [Matthew 3:1-2]
  - ◊ Jesus continued the theme with the exact same words. [Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14-15]
- † Then Jesus clearly stated for anyone who would be able to accept the revelation, that John was the fulfillment of the prophecy of the coming of Elijah.
 

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
 Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.  
 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children,  
 And the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
 Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." [Malachi 4:5-6]
- † He who has ears to hear, let him hear! [Matthew 11:15]
  - ◊ Not everyone is able or willing to accept the truth revealed. [Matthew 11:14]
  - ◊ That remained the statement throughout the Church age, and the book of Revelation. [Matthew 11:15, 13:9-17, 43, Mark 4:9, 23, 7:16, 8:18, Luke 8:8, 14:35, Acts 28:27, Romans 11:8, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 13:9]
  - ◊ That ability comes only as a gift from God. [Deuteronomy 29:4, Isaiah 6:10, Jeremiah 5:21, Ezekiel 12:1-2]

### This Generation Like Children Playing [Matthew 11:16-17, Luke 7:31-35]

- † This generation is like children playing, wanting to be the leaders, and angry because everyone does not follow them.
  - ◊ It was out of envy that the religious and political leaders killed Jesus, the Apostles, and the believers. [Matthew 27:18, Mark 15:10, Acts 13:45, 1 Timothy 6:3-5, James 3:16]
  - ◊ Jesus and John called them hypocrites (pretenders). [Matthew 15:1-9, 16:1-4, 22:15-22, 23:13-36, Mark 7:1-7, 12:13-17, Luke 11:42-54, 12:1, 54-55, 13:14-16]
- † Evidence of their Hypocrisy: [Matthew 11:18-19]
  - ◊ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'
  - ◊ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a gluttonous man and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'
- † But wisdom is justified by her children." [Matthew 11:19]
  - ◊ Evidence for discernment, is in the lives of those who present themselves as leaders.
  - ◊ You will know them by their fruits. [Matthew 7:15-20, 12:33-34, Luke 6:43-45]