Matthew 11:1-19

Review...

- o FIRST The Presentation of the King Matthew 1-7
- o SECOND The Ministry of the King Matthew 8-18
- o Sending the Twelve...
 - Jesus had just finished saying PRAY the Lord sends workers into His HARVEST...
 - And the very next thing He did was PRAY who to send to reach the LOST...
 - He chose TWELVE men the APOSTLES and SENT them out to preach the Gospel!
- o Count the Cost...
 - There were only TWO options to those the APOSTLES shared the GOSPEL with...
 - If people CONFESSED Jesus then He would CONFESS them before the Father...
 - If people DENIED Jesus then He would DENY them before the Father!
- o Make the Choice...
 - Jesus did NOT come to bring PEACE He came with a SWORD...
 - The Gospel would even divide FAMILIES the ENEMY would be in our house...
 - Therefore to FOLLOW Jesus we must LOVE him more than FAMILY more than our LIFE...
 - Because if we seek to FIND life we will LOSE it but if we LOSE our life for Him we FIND it!

• 1st - Lapse of Faith... vs. 1-6 [Luke 7:18-35]

- o 1st Not alone... vs. 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!
 - When Jesus FINISHED [τελέω] giving the INSTRUCTIONS to the TWELVE...
 - He did not just SEND [ἀποστέλλω] them out He went with them...
 - He went TEACHING [present] and PREACHING [present] in the same CITIES He sent them to!
 - Jesus calls us to go out and to SHARE the Gospel KNOWING there will be challenges...
 - But He does NOT ask us to go alone He is ALWAYS there with us!
 - Hebrews 13:5 "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- o 2nd Doubting... vs. 2-3
 - In Prison... vs. 2
 - When John had heard in prison about the works of Christ!
 - This is the same John [cousin of Jesus] who baptized Jesus Matthew 3:16
 - But John could no longer watch Jesus himself He had been thrown into PRISON...
 - So His DISCIPLES reported to him everything Jesus was doing Luke 7:18
 - John was imprisoned in the fortress of Machaerus [near Dead Sea] by Herod Antipas...
 - John was arrested when He rebuked Herod for his marriage to Herodias...
 - Herodias was the granddaughter of Herod the Great [the NIECE of Herod Antipas]
 - The problem she divorced her UNCLE Philip to marry her UNCLE Antipas!
 - The Question... vs. 2-3
 - [John] sent two of his disciples [to Jesus] Are You the Coming One or do we look for another?
 - He QUESTIONED if Jesus was the MESSIAH or were they to LOOK for someone ELSE [ἕτερος]
 - John had CONFIDENCE in Jesus when things were going the way that he PLANNED...
 - John had been absolutely certain Jesus was the promised MESSIAH!
 - **John 1:29-34** "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."
 - It is EASY to BELIEVE in Jesus when everything is going great...
 - When there is LOTS of money LOTS of people everyone is HAPPY...

- But that is NOT the LIFE that Jesus promised us life takes unexpected turns!
- Hard Times...
 - But John did NOT expect to end up in PRISON and now he had DOUBTS!
 - It can be really HARD to TRUST in God when life falls apart...
 - When our plans CRUMBLE and do NOT understand what God is doing...
 - But the PROBLEM is our perspective we are looking at CIRCUMSTANCES and NOT at Jesus...
 - The SOLUTION is to get our eyes back on the SOLUTION!
 - II Corinthians 4:18 "Do NOT look at the troubles we can see right now rather we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever." [NLT]
- o 3rd The Evidence... vs. 4-5
 - Transformed lives... vs. 4
 - Jesus answered and said to them Go and tell John the things which you hear and see!
 - The ANSWER from Jesus: GO [imperative] and give this MESSAGE [ἄγγελος] to John...
 - FIRST they were to TELL him EVERYTHING they had SEEN and HEARD!
 - Many years ago when I first came on staff at the church...
 - I was attending a STAFF meeting and the Pastor had everyone introduce themselves...
 - By the time we got around to me everyone was LAUGHING...
 - We ALL had STORIES we were a bunch of SINNERS that God has saved by His GRACE!
 - There are a LOT of RELIGIONS in the world how can people know Jesus is the TRUTH...
 - The answer is SIMPLE look and see what He does to the people who put their faith in Him...
 - ONLY the Gospel can take SINNERS and transform them into SAINTS!
 - Fulfilled Prophecy... vs. 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!
 - SECOND they were to tell him about the PROPHECIES He had fulfilled...
 - The miracles Jesus was doing were the PROOF He was the MESSIAH!
 - The Messiah would open the eyes of the BLIND and ears of the DEAF Isaiah 42:7
 - Lepers would be HEALED Leviticus 14:11
 - The dead would be raised to LIFE Psalm 16:10
 - And the message of the Gospel [good news] would be given to the POOR Isaiah 61:1
 - Laws of Probability...
 - If I have TEN cards only ONE is a heart the chances of picking the HEART = 1/10
 - To REPEAT that becomes 1/100 and a THIRD time 1/1000 [compound probability]
 - The CHANCES of Jesus fulfilling just EIGHT* of the prophecies in the Bible = $1/10^{17}$
 - To grasp how BIG a number that is fill the Philippines over a METER deep in Peso coins...
 - Paint ONE coin black then randomly pick a coin if it is BLACK that = $1/10^{17}$
 - That is for just EIGHT of the over 300 PROPHECIES Jesus fulfilled in His life and MINISTRY!
 - God is the only one who sees the end from the beginning [outside time] Isaiah 46:9
 - Prophecy [probability] is how He validates His Word proves He is the Author...
 - And by fulfilling the PROPHESIES about the Messiah Jesus proved He is the Christ!
- o 4th Not Stumbled... vs. 6
 - Blessed is he who is not [stumbled] because of Me!
 - In light of the EVIDENCE transformed LIFE and fulfilled PROPHECY...
 - There should be NO reason to DOUBT Jesus everyone should receive Him with JOY [μακάριος]
 - But John was STUMBLED [σκανδαλίζω] he was NOT sure about Jesus...
 - Because Jesus did NOT meet his EXPECTATIONS causing him to DOUBT!
 - The Gospel is not a MESSAGE about a better LIFE it is about ETERNAL life...

- And if we come with the wrong EXPECTATIONS we are going to STUMBLE!
- 2^{ND} End of the Old Covenant... vs. 7-15
 - o 1st Who was John... vs. 7-9
 - Question... vs. 7
 - As they departed Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John!
 - As the DISCIPLES of John were [present] leaving [participle] so they could HEAR...
 - Jesus began to question the CROWD about John the Baptist...
 - MANY of them had gone out to see John in the WILDERNESS Matthew 3:5
 - Jesus gives them THREE possible MOTIVES for their CURIOSITY!
 - No one... vs. 7
 - What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?
 - Reeds [grass] are ALWAYS shaken by the wind NOTHING special...
 - Obviously they did NOT travel into the wilderness to see something COMMON!
 - A rich man... vs. 8
 - What did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments?
 - Indeed those who wear soft clothing are in kings houses!
 - Did the people go to see someone wearing EXPENSIVE [μαλακός] clothing...
 - People will TRAVEL a long ways to see MOVIE stars POLITICIANS...
 - But FAMOUS people who wear EXPENSIVE clothes live in NICE houses [not the desert]
 - John was famous for his simple CAMEL clothes Matthew 3:4
 - A Prophet... vs. 9
 - What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes I say to you and more than a prophet!
 - The people went to see John because he was a PROPHET...
 - And there had NOT been a PROPHET in Israel for over FOUR hundred years [since Malachi]
 - Because after years of sending PROPHETS to try and CORRECT His wayward people...
 - God finally had ENOUGH and gave them what they wanted SILENCE!
 - Amos 8:11 "I will send a famine on the land... of hearing the words of the LORD."
 - We all know what it feels like to miss a MEAL we get HANGRY...
 - The same is true for the WORD of the LORD we need SPIRITUAL food [Rice of Life]
 - Those who do NOT regularly get into the WORD are STARVING for the TRUTH!
 - o 2^{nd} Greatest Prophet... vs. 10-14
 - Prepared the way... vs. 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!
 - John the Baptist was NOT just any PROPHET he was MORE...
 - ullet FIRST because he was SENT [ἀποστέλλω] to prepare the WAY **Malachi 3:1**
 - He prepared the HEARTS of the people to RECEIVE Jesus by telling them to REPENT...
 - So when the Lord came they would see their NEED to be SAVED!
 - Jen and I were hesitating to get a physical because we did NOT want bad news...
 - We chose to be willfully IGNORANT rather than find out the TRUTH!
 - The problem with the world today is they refuse to admit they are SICK [sinners]
 - They PRETEND like everything is OK willfully IGNORANT of the danger they are in ...
 - God sends us to remind them they are SINNERS and they need to be HEALED!
 - Greatest man... vs. 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!

- SECOND because John was the GREATEST of ALL the PROPHETS...
- [ἀμὴν] John was the GREATER than any man BORN to a woman [everyone]
- Because while ALL the other PROPHETS had spoken about the coming of the Messiah...
- John the Baptist was the one who actually got to SEE Jesus!
- The writer of Hebrews listed all of the GREAT men of the Bible...
- But he does on to say they did NOT receive the PROMISE of the MESSIAH Hebrews 11:39
- Because God wanted to give something BETTER to us
- We have Jesus living in our hearts we have a personal relationship with Him...
- So the LEAST [μικρός] of us is more blessed than John the Baptist!
- Last Prophet... vs. 12-13
 - From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence.
 - And the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John!
 - THIRD because people REALLY wanted to HEAR John speak...
 - From the days [ἡμέρα] of John the Kingdom of Heaven had VIOLENCE...
 - VIOLENCE [βιάζω] 2x in NT describing large crowds rushing in to HEAR...
 - Great MULTITUDES came to LISTEN John then Jesus after him...
 - And those who were DETERMINED [β ιάζω] were able to ENTER [$\dot{\alpha}$ ρπάζω] the Kingdom...
 - Because John marked the END of the Old Testament [Law and Prophets] Luke 16:16
 - The Old Testament did NOT stop with Malachi it ENDED with John the Baptist...
 - John marked the END of an Era the END of the Old Covenant...
 - Because the Old Covenant could NOT make anyone RIGHTEOUS Romans 3:20
 - But those who were DETERMINED to hear the TRUTH stuck around...
 - And heard Jesus give something BETTER the NEW Covenant of Grace!
- Elisha to come... vs. 14-15
 - If you are willing to receive it he is Elijah who is to come.
 - He who has ears to hear let him hear!
 - FOURTH for those WILLING [present] to RECEIVE John the Baptist is ELIJAH!
 - The very last verse of the Old Testament promised the return of Elijah Malachi 4:5
 - Elijah was one of only TWO men in the OT who never died [also Enoch] II Kings 2:11
 - And Elijah would return and prepare the hearts of the people to receive the MESSIAH...
 - John the Baptist would DENY he was Elijah John 1:21
 - But Jesus confirmed he came in the POWER of Elijah for BELIEVERS **Matthew 11:14**
 - For UNBELIEVERS Elijah will RETURN as one of the TWO witnesses **Revelation 11:3**
 - Therefore anyone with EARS that can HEAR LISTEN [imperative]
 - Almost identical command to what is given to each of the SEVEN churches **Revelation 2-3**
 - Because God is SPEAKING trying to get our ATTENTION...
 - He sent John the last Old Testament prophet calling on people to REPENT...
 - He sent Jesus with the NEW Covenant of Grace to take away our SIN...
 - The only question is are we willing to LISTEN when God speaks!
- 3^{RD} Playing Games... vs. 16-19
 - o 1st Entertained... vs. 16-17
 - The Crowds... vs. 16
 - To what shall I liken this generation?
 - This was the QUESTION Jesus challenged the CROWD with...
 - God had SENT out John the BAPTIST but the people did NOT listen...
 - He SENT out Jesus CHRIST but they did NOT pay attention...
 - Jesus SENT out the APOSTLES but the people did NOT care!
 - Little Children... vs. 16-17

- It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions.
- Saying: We played the flute for you and you did not dance.
- We mourned to you and you did not lament!
- Jesus used the ILLUSTRATION of kids playing in the MARKET [ἀγορά]
- They played MUSIC but were upset when the people did not DANCE...
- Then they MOURNED but were upset when the people did not CRY...
- It was all a GAME to them and they were just looking for others to PLAY along!
- I have noticed when a new STORE or RESTAURANT opens everyone shows up...
- Not because they NEED something but just because it is NEW...
- Yet give it a few weeks and they have moved on to the next NEW thing...
- Because all they are looking for is to be ENTERTAINED!
- Acts 17:21 [They] spent their time in nothing else but to tell or to hear some new thing."
- Sadly this mentality has found its way into the church...
- If there is a NEW bible study or some NEW ministry everyone is INTERESTED...
- But give it a few WEEKS or MONTHS and the numbers dwindle...
- The reason people are not SEEKING the TRUTH they want to be ENTERTAINED!
- o 2nd Complaining... vs. 18-19
 - John the Baptist... vs. 18
 - For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say He has a demon!
 - John the Baptist came living by the Old Covenant FASTING and not DRINKING alcohol...
 - He was trying to show people what it MEANT to live a GODLY life...
 - Because the standard of the LAW is PERFECTION Matthew 5:48
 - But people did NOT want to be HOLY they did not like CONVICTION...
 - So they spread [present] the LIE that John was POSSESSED [devil]!
 - We do NOT give people the LAW [613 commands] so they can be GOOD...
 - We give people the LAW so that they know they are BAD...
 - Because the LAW is the STANDARD that defines what is GOOD...
 - But like a MIRROR that tells the TRUTH the LAW is only able to show us we have FAILED!
 - No one likes to look at themselves in the mirror...
 - When the person who stares back at them is clearly NOT good...
 - They would rather AVOID the mirror and pretend they are OK!
 - Son of Man... vs. 19
 - The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say:
 - Look a glutton and a winebibber a friend of tax collectors and sinners!
 - Jesus [Son of Man] came to show the FREEDOM we have in the New Covenant...
 - He was both EATING [present] and DRINKING [present]
 - But the people did NOT want the LAW or the GRACE of God...
 - So they accused Jesus of OVEREATING [glutton] and a DRUNK [wine drinker]
 - \bullet Who LOVED [φίλος] tax collectors and SINNERS!
 - Jesus made it VERY easy to get to HEAVEN there are no RULES to keep...
 - We do NOT earn our salvation it is a FREE gift...
 - All we have to do is REPENT and BELIEVE to receive it Romans 10:9-10
 - But the problem for many is they do NOT like that FIRST step [repent]!
 - People LOVE to hold to RELIGION because it makes them feel GOOD...
 - They do NOT have to REPENT they just have to follow some RULES...
 - To that person the idea of FREE salvation seems like a joke!
 - Look at the Fruit... vs. 19
 - But wisdom is justified by her children!

- Do NOT listen to what people SAY they are NEVER happy...
- Instead look at what people DO because their lives tell the TRUTH...
- WISDOM is knowing we can tell who someone is by their FRUIT [children]!
- People rejected John people rejected Jesus and they will reject us...
- Not because what we believe is WRONG but because they do NOT want the truth...
- They might be SINNERS who live their life trying to DENY their SIN...
- Or they might be RELIGIOUS attempted to COVER up their SIN...
- But WISDOM tells us ONLY Jesus can change us and take away our SIN!