



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“A Firm Man For A Flabby Generation” (Matthew 11:7-15)**

Date: **December 8, 2019**

Jesus has finished giving his commissioning sermon to his disciples. After instructing his twelve disciples, he began to teach and preach again in their cities. While this is happening, John the Baptist is currently in a prison cell for calling out Herod's sexual immorality. While in prison, he's experienced some doubts about Jesus and so he sent some messengers to ask Jesus whether or not he is the Messiah. Jesus answers his question. And now in this week's text Jesus speaks to the crowds concerning John the Baptist. As we study his teaching about John, we will learn that John is the greatest prophet. But even though he is considered to be the greatest prophet, Jesus says that we are greater than John because we are living in the Messianic age where the kingdom of God is advancing. We belong to the kingdom and get to see first hand the progress of the kingdom. Because of this, the privilege and power that is ours is greater than John. Thus, we can expect to do great things for the kingdom. Consequently, we can also expect great opposition.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 11:7-15 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. What does Jesus teach about John in verses 7-8? What does he mean by “a reed shaken by the wind,” (v. 7) and “a man dress in soft clothing,” (v. 8)?
 - b. Why is John the Baptist “more than a prophet”? Why is he the greatest prophet?
 - c. In verse 11, Jesus says that no one is greater than John the Baptist. And yet in the next breath he says that even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. How do we reconcile these two statements? What is Jesus teaching us?
 - d. Verse 12 is a challenging verse to understand. What do you think it is teaching about the kingdom of God?
 - e. What do verse 13-14 teach us about the time in which we live?
 - f. Because we live in the Messianic era, we are considered to be greater than John (v. 11b). Why?



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- g. What are the implications of the truth that we are greater than John the Baptist? How should this truth affect our expectations for how God might use us in the kingdom?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why was John the Baptist's life and ministry significant? What does Jesus teach us about John the Baptist in this passage?
3. In verse 11, Jesus teaches that "the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than [John]." What does he mean by this? In what sense are we 'greater' than John?
4. What does verse 12 teach us about the opposition we can expect in the kingdom of God? In what ways have you seen the kingdom of God opposed by the world?
5. How were you convicted and/or encouraged by the teaching this week?
6. How can we make application from this passage to our lives? Is there anything that needs to change in your life as a result of this week's teaching?