



# SUNDAY CLASS

9/21/08

## Key Verses: Matthew 11:7-15

### Matthew 11:7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

7 As these men went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind?"

\*\*\*Note, It is our duty to consult the reputation of our brethren, and not only to remove, but to obviate and prevent, jealousies and ill thoughts of them; and we must take all occasions, especially such as discover any thing of infirmity, to speak well of those who are praiseworthy, and to give them that fruit of their hands."

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

*"This is giving honor to whom honor is due. John had abased himself to honor Christ (John. 3:20, 30, Matthew 3:11), had made himself nothing, that Christ might be All, and now Christ dignifies him with this character.*

### John 3:20 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

20 For everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed.

### John 3:30 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

30 He must increase, but I must decrease."

### Matthew 3:11 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the One who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to take off His sandals. He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

\*\*\*Note, They who humble themselves shall be exalted, and those that honor Christ he will honor; those that confess him before men, he will confess, and sometimes before men too, even in this world."

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

**Matthew 3:1 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*The Messiah's Herald*

*1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Wilderness of Judea*

**John 1:6-8 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*6 There was a man named John who was sent from God. 7 He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.*

\*\*\*Note, Christ reserves honor for his servants when they have done their work, John 12:26."

**John 12:26 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*26 If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me. Where I am, there My servant also will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

**John 1:19-28 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*John the Baptist's Testimony*

*19 This is John's testimony when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He did not refuse to answer, but he declared: "I am not the Messiah." 21 "What then?" they asked him. "Are you Elijah?" "I am not," he said. "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered. 22 "Who are you, then?" they asked. "We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What can you tell us about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am a voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord—just as Isaiah the prophet said." 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 So they asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you aren't the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet?" 26 "I baptize with water," John answered them. "Someone stands among you, but you don't know [Him]. 27 He is the One coming after me,*

*whose sandal strap I'm not worthy to untie."28 All this happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

**Ephesians 4:14 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*14 Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit.*

**Romans 15:4 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*4 For whatever was written before was written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we may have hope.*

**Matthew 11:8 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? Look, those who wear soft clothes are in kings' palaces.*

\*\*\*Note, Though we must be forward to give to all their due praise for their encouragement, yet we must avoid every thing that looks like flattery, or may be in danger of puffing them up."

*"They who in other things are mortified to the world, yet cannot well bear their own praise. Pride is a corrupt humor, which we must not feed either in others or in ourselves."*

*\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE*

**Matthew 11:9 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and far more than a prophet.*

\*\*\*Note, Many that attend on the word come rather to see and be seen, than to learn and be taught, to have something to talk of, than to be made wise to salvation."

*"Christ puts it to them, what went ye out to see?"*

\*\*\*Note, They who attend on the word will be called to an account, what their intentions and what their improvements were.

*We think when the sermon is done, the care is over; no, then the greatest of the care begins. It will shortly be asked, "What business had you such a time at such an ordinance? What brought you thither? Was it custom or company, or was it a desire to honor God and get good? What have you brought thence? What knowledge, and grace, and comfort? What went you to see?"*

\*\*\*Note, When we go to read and hear the word, we should see that we aim right in what we do."

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

**Matthew 14:5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*5 Though he wanted to kill him, he feared the crowd, since they regarded him as a prophet.*

**Matthew 21:26 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*26 But if we say, 'From men,' we're afraid of the crowd, because everyone thought John was a prophet."*

**Luke 1:76 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*76 And child, you will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways,*

**Matthew 11:10 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*10 This is the one it is written about:*

*Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You;*

*he will prepare Your way before You.*

\*\*\*Note, they who have lived a life of mortification, are least likely to be driven off from their religion by persecution.

*He was not a man clothed in soft raiment; such there are, but they are in kings' houses.*

\*\*\*Note, It becomes people in all their appearances to be consistent with their character and their situation.

*They who are preachers must not affect to look like courtiers; nor must they whose lot is cast in common dwellings, be ambitious of the soft clothing which they wear who are in kings' houses. Prudence teaches us to be of a piece. John appeared rough and unpleasant, yet they flocked after him.*

\*\*\*Note, The remembrance of our former zeal in attending on the word of God, should quicken us to, and in, our present work: let it not be said that we have done and suffered so many things in vain, have run in vain and labored in vain.\*\*\*

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

**Malachi 3:1 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*1 "See, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to His temple, the Messenger of the covenant you desire—see, He is coming," says the LORD of Hosts.*

**Isaiah 40:3 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*3 A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert.*

**Mark 1:2 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way.*

**Matthew 11:11 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*11 " I assure you: Among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

*"There was not a greater born of women than John the Baptist, v. 11. Christ knew how to value persons according to the degrees of their worth, and he prefers John before all that went before him, before all that were born of women by ordinary generation. Of all that God had raised up and called to any service in his church, John is the most eminent, even beyond Moses himself; for he began to preach the gospel doctrine of remission of sins to those who are truly penitent; and he had more signal revelations from heaven than any of them had; for he saw heaven*

*opened, and the Holy Ghost descend. He also had great success in his ministry; almost the whole nation flocked to him: none rose on so great a design, or came on so noble an errand, as John did, or had such claims to a welcome reception. Many had been born of women that made a great figure in the world, but Christ prefers John before them.*

\*\*\*Note, Greatness is not to be measured by appearances and outward splendor, but they are the greatest men who are the greatest saints, and the greatest blessings, who are, as John was, great in the sight of the Lord, Luke 1:15.”

### **Luke 1:15 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord*

*and will never drink wine or beer.*

*He will be filled with the Holy Spirit*

*while still in his mother's womb.*

\*\*\*Note, All the true greatness of men is derived from, and denominated by, the gracious manifestation of Christ to them.”

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

### **Matthew 11:12 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence, and the violent have been seizing it by force.*

\*\*\*Note, They who would enter into the kingdom of heaven must strive to enter; that kingdom suffers a holy violence; self must be denied, the bent and bias, the frame and temper, of the mind must be altered; there are hard sufferings to be undergone, a force to be put upon the corrupt nature; we must run, and wrestle, and fight, and be in an agony, and all little enough to win such a prize, and to get over such opposition from without and from within.”

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

**Matthew 11:13 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John;*

**Matthew 11:14 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*14 if you're willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who is to come.*

*“First,*

*Christ speaks of it as a great truth, that John the Baptist is the Elias of the New Testament; not Elias in propria persona—in his own person, as the carnal Jews expected; he denied that (Jn. 1:21), but one that should come in the spirit and power of Elias (Lu. 1:17), like him in temper and conversation, that should press repentance with terrors, and especially as it is in the prophecy, that should turn the hearts of the fathers to the children.*

*Secondly,*

*He speaks of it as a truth, which would not be easily apprehended by those whose expectations fastened upon the temporal kingdom of the Messiah, and introductions to it agreeable. Christ suspects the welcome of it, if ye will receive it. Not but that it was true, whether they would receive it or not, but he upbraids them with their prejudices, that they were backward to receive the greatest truths that were opposed to their sentiments, though never so favorable to their interests. Or, "If you will receive him, or if you will receive the ministry of John as that of the promised Elias, he will be an Elias to you, to turn you and prepare you for the Lord,""*

*\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE*

**Malachi 4:5 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*5 Look, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of the LORD comes.*

**Matthew 17:10-13 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*10 So the disciples questioned Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"<sup>11</sup> "Elijah is coming and will restore everything," He replied.<sup>12</sup> "But I tell you: Elijah has already come, and they didn't recognize him. On the contrary, they did whatever they pleased to him. In*

*the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them about John the Baptist.*

**Mark 9:11-13 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*11 Then they began to question Him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 12 "Elijah does come first and restores everything," He replied. "How then is it written about the Son of Man that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt?13 But I tell you that Elijah really has come, and they did to him whatever they wanted, just as it is written about him."*

**Luke 1:17 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*17 And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people.*

**John 1:21 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*21 "What then?" they asked him. "Are you Elijah?" "I am not," he said. "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered.*

**Matthew 11:15 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*15 Anyone who has ears should listen!*

*"Lastly,*

*Our Lord Jesus closes this discourse with a solemn demand of attention (v. 15): He that hath ears to hear, let him hear; which intimates, that those things were dark and hard to be understood, and therefore needed attention, but of great concern and consequence, and therefore well deserved it. "Let all people take notice of this, if John be the Elias prophesied of, then certainly here is a great revolution on foot, the Messiah's kingdom is at the door, and the world will shortly be surprised into a happy change. These are things which require your serious consideration, and therefore you are all concerned to hearken to what I say.""*

**\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE**

**Matthew 13:9 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*9 Anyone who has ears should listen!"*

**Mark 4:23 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*23 If anyone has ears to hear, he should listen!"*

**Luke 8:8 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*8 Still other seed fell on good ground; when it sprang up, it produced a crop: 100 times [what was sown]." As He said this, He called out, "Anyone who has ears to hear should listen!"*

**Luke 14:35 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*35 It isn't fit for the soil or for the manure pile; they throw it out. Anyone who has ears to hear should listen!"*

**Revelation 2:7 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

*7 "Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will give the victor the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.*

***Are You Listening?***

***"THE NEW TREE OF LIFE.***

*"In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the River, was there the 'TREE OF LIFE,' which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations."*

*Rev. 22:2.*

*The streets are to be lined with trees, as are also the banks of a wonderful river. These trees are not mere shade trees, but beautiful Fruit Trees, called the "TREE OF LIFE," that bear Twelve Kinds of Fruit, a different kind each month. The fruit of these trees is for Overcomers Only. The leaves of the trees are for the Healing of the Nations that shall occupy the New Earth. Not that there will be any sickness, but to preserve them in health, as Adam would have been preserved in health if he had eaten of the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. Gen. 3:22-24."*

***\*\*\*CLARENCE LARKIN – BOOK OF REVELATION***

*DO YOU WANT TO EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE?*

