



# The Gospel of Matthew

**Bible Study – Examination, Exposition, and Application**

**Chapter 11:1-30 – Responding to the Kingdom**

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## Chapter 11 – Responding to the Kingdom

### ■ **Jesus & John the Baptizer**

- v. 1 – Instruction the Twelve Apostles (Missionary Journey)
- v. 2-6 – Jesus' relationship with John
  - Herod Antipas Imprisoned John at Machaerus (5 miles east of the Dead Sea) [Josephus, Jewish Historian, John criticized Herod for divorcing his wife (Phasaelis, daughter of King Aretas of Nabataea) and unlawfully marrying Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip I]
  - John's Question: "Are you the one (Messiah) who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"
    - Imminent Judgment of the Wicked (Mt. 3:10)
    - Miraculous Healings and Justice (Isa. 29:18-19; 35:5-6; 61:1)
    - Jesus' reply "God and tell John what you hear and see..."

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## Chapter 11 – Responding to the Kingdom

### ► Jesus & John the Baptizer

- v. 7-15 – Jesus questions the crowd about John:
  - “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at?
    - A reed shaken by the wind?
    - Someone dressed in soft clothes?
    - A Prophet?
  - More than a prophet...prophets prophesied about him: Mal. 3:1
    - No human arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
    - Kingdom of heaven suffered violence and taken by force
    - Biblical prophecy and law: return of Elijah (spirit of Elijah) – Mal. 4:5

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- v. 16-24 – The responses to John and Jesus:
  - v. 16-19 - The Crowd: childish pouting; you are not playing our game our ways (dancing/mourning)
    - John came fasting and serious – crowd said, “He has a demon”
    - Son of Man (Hebrew scripture title for the Messiah) came glutton and drunkard; - crowd said, “friend of tax collectors and sinners”
    - Wisdom (Sophia, feminine): vindicated by her deeds (or “children”)
  - v. 20-24 – The Communities: cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent:
    - Chorazin and Bethsaida vs. Tyre and Sidon (Phoenician cities)
    - Capernaum (Isa. 14:13) vs. Sodom

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### ► Jesus & John the Baptizer

- v. 25-30 – Jesus' Invitation to Repentance
  - v. 25-26 – Public Prayer about the Mysterious Revelation of God: Scholars/Sages miss God's self-disclosure, but infants understand it
  - v. 27 – Jesus' Revelatory Relations with God the Father: "authority to chose"
    - Hidden (Gk. *Apekruptsas*; "conceal") vs. Revealed (Gk. *Apekalupsas*; "made known, uncovered")
  - v. 28-30 – "Come to me...(sheep without a shepherd)
    - Weary and carrying a heavy burden – rest (Gk. *Anapauso*; "ceasing")
    - Take my yoke upon you – learn (Gk. *Mathete*; fact-finding, realize)
    - Gentle and humble in heart – rest (Gk. *Psychais*; peace-of-mind)
    - My yoke (Gk. *Zugos*) is easy, and
    - My burden (Gk. *Phortion*; load) is light (vs. rabbinical "yoke" of the Law)