
SERMON NOTES March 19, 2023

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

**Matthew 11:7-19
God's Invasive Kingdom
Pastor Mike**

- I. Defining _____ and _____
- a. Unbelief isn't _____ but _____ God let us down
- b. Belief is _____ and his plan and will
- II. The example of _____
- a. Not driven by _____ or _____
- b. Not seeing God as _____
- c. Driven by a commitment to _____
- III. The example of life-changing _____, not _____
- IV. The _____ of true faith in Jesus
- a. The violence of _____
- b. The violence of _____
- V. The real reason behind _____
- a. There is a reason _____ the reasons given
- b. Most people's _____ are really _____

Closing question

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. After John the Baptist's disciples came to Jesus and expressed John's doubts about Jesus really being the Messiah, Jesus addressed the crowd who overheard this interaction to affirm that John's doubts shouldn't be seen as an expression of his failure, but his life and ministry should be seen as a model of exemplary faith.
 - a. It is common to see doubt as an expression of unbelief, or a weak or failing faith. What is unbelief, and how is it different than doubt?
 - b. What is Biblical belief in Jesus, and how were John's doubts an expression of his faith, not his lack of faith?
2. John was a very unusual man, preaching in the wilderness dressed like a wild-man, and preaching very confrontational message. Yet, he drew huge crowds who came out to hear him. What about John's character and/or message set him apart, so that so many people came to hear him? What does Jesus teach us about John in verses 7-10?
3. In Matthew 11:11 Jesus said, *"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."*
 - a. How was John the greatest of men every born?
 - b. What does Jesus mean when he says that while John was the greatest of men ever born, *but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he?*" If you are a follower of Jesus and part of God's kingdom, what is Jesus teaching about you?
4. In Matthew 11:12 Jesus taught< *"from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."* What is he teaching?
 - a. What is the violence of the kingdom of heaven? Usually we think of Jesus and his kingdom of being one of peace, why does Jesus speak of violence?
 - b. What is the violence of the kingdom in Jesus establishing his kingdom?
 - c. What is the violence of the kingdom of our allowing Jesus to establish his kingdom in our hearts?
5. In Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus confronted the unbelievers directly, pointing out that while they had "reasons" that the rejected John's and Jesus message, the ultimate reason was their unwillingness to bow their knee to God in repentance.
 - a. Is the real reason that a person rejects Jesus' message always ultimately rooted in their unwillingness to bow their knee to God in repentance? Why or why not?
 - b. As Christians can we be guilty of using this kind of deception in our own lives - finding some kind of excuse to reject part of God's call upon our lives? If so, what does this look like?