

## Turning Point Matthew 11:1-15

### I. John's Questions (vs. 1-3)

- a. Matthew used the phrase ***When Jesus had finished*** to mark the end of the 5 literary sections of his Gospel (cf. Matt. 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1)
- b. With the disciples on their first missionary journey, Jesus was ministering alone in the cities around Capernaum (cf. Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 12:9; Mark 6:2; Luke 6:6; John 18:20)
- c. John had been in prison for roughly a year in the old desert fort at Machaerus southeast of the Dead Sea (cf. Matt. 4:12; Matt. 14:3-5; cf. Mark 6:17-20; Luke 3:19-20; Josephus, *Antiquities*, 18.5.4)
- d. "***the Expected One***" (*ho erchomenos* / ὁ ἐρχόμενος) was a Messianic Title (cf. Isa. 59:20; Ps. 40:7; 118:26; Matt. 3:11; 21:9; Mark 1:7; 11:9; Luke 3:16; 13:35; 19:38; John 1:27)
- e. John's doubts were understandable; even though he had been given great revelation, he had also been through great tribulation (cf. Matt. 3:11-12, 16-17; John 1:29)

### II. Jesus' Answers (vs. 4-6)

- a. Jesus did not give a yes or no answer, but He did give proof! (cf. Isa. 29:18-19; 35:5; 8:14-15; 26:19; 61:1-2)
- b. Including the raising of the widow's son in Nain, Jesus most likely performed all of these miracles in front of John's disciples (cf. Luke 7:11-16)
- c. ***offense = skandalizō (σκανδαλιζω)*** = "to cause one to be offended, to offend" is Jesus' warning to not get hung up or trapped when He doesn't meet your expectations

### III. Jesus' Questions (vs. 7-9a)

- a. In case anyone listening to John's disciples got the wrong impression, Jesus asked 3 rhetorical questions to set the record straight on who John really was:
  - i. Was he a ***reed shaken by the wind***? No, John was a man of strong integrity and conviction! (cf. Matt. 3:7; 14:1-12; Isa. 42:3; 1 Kings. 14:15; 2 Kings. 18:21; Ezek. 29:6)
  - ii. Was he a ***man dressed in soft clothing***? No, John was a man of devout ministry and mission! ." (cf. Matt. 3:4; Luke 1:15)
  - iii. Was he a prophet? Yes, he was a real prophet! (cf. Mark 11:32)

### IV. Jesus' Answers (vs. 9b-15)

- a. John was ***more than a prophet***
- b. He was both a Prophet and fulfillment of Prophecy: ***My MESSENGER*** (Mal. 3:1a; cf. Mark 1:2-3; Isa. 40:3; 57:14; 62:10)
- c. ***there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist*** = no other Old Testament had known or seen more about God's eternal plan of redemption than John! (cf. 1 Peter 1:10-11)
  - i. But the lowliest New Testament Believer has more blessing and revelation than John (cf. Matt 13:16-17)
- d. Since John burst onto the scene of history Satan and his violent minions have tried to destroy John and Jesus...and in some way stop Christ's Kingdom from coming! (cf. Luke 16:16-18)
- e. Jesus ends with a call to believe the Law and the Prophets that John was the Messiah's Messenger and therefore, He is the Messiah; if you have spiritual ears to hear!