Sermon Notes August 18, 2019

**John the Baptist is "The Greatest," but, in Christ, you are Greater!**

**1. If you are his friend, Jesus will not turn his back on you.**

**Matthew 11:7-19** (P. 970 in the Pew Bible) As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

**John 15:15** No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends

**Philippians 1:6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**Matthew 27:46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

**2 Timothy 2:13** If we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.

a. See how Jesus doesn’t turn his back on John the Baptist.

b. This is how Christ will confess you before God as you confess him before men.

c. He won’t turn his back on you because the Father turned his back on Him.

**2. Have you been given “ears to hear” His summons to enter the Kingdom? Vss. 11-15**

**Matthew 11:11- 15** Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

**Malachi 3:1** “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.

**Malachi 4:5** “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

**Luke 16:16** “The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.

a. Have you heard Elijah?

b. John the Baptist is great, but he points you to Someone greater!

c. Now, Jesus tells you that something better is here, and you are “greater” than John!

d. Will you seize the Kingdom with force?

**3. Don’t be apathetic. Embrace his kingdom! Vss. 16-19**

**Matthew 11:16-19** “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, 17 “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

a. Are you like children who won’t cooperate with Jesus agenda?

b. What do you say about (John and) Jesus?

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