

Greatness

11/27/11

Matthew 11:11 "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Great people...

1 ...experience suffering

Matthew 11:1 And it came about that when Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He departed from there to teach and preach in their cities.

² Now when John in prison heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples,

2 ...have questions

³ and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?"

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see:

⁵ *the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

⁶ "And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me."

3 ...have convictions

⁷ And as these were going *away*, Jesus began to speak to the multitudes about John, "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?"

4 ...are tough

⁸ "But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Behold, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' palaces.

5 ...have a call on their lives

⁹ "But why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I say to you, and one who is more than a prophet.

¹⁰ "This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

¹¹ "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

6 ...attract others to the kingdom

¹² "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.

¹³ "For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

¹⁴ "And if you care to accept *it*, he himself is Elijah, who was to come.

¹⁵ "He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

7 ...experience rejection

¹⁶ "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other *children*,

¹⁷ and say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.'

8 ...differ from one another in gifts and callings

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, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁰ Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent.

²¹ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

²² "Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in *the* day of judgment, than for you.

²³ "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.

²⁴ "Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in *the* day of judgment, than for you."

9 ...are humble

²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, "I praise Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from *the* wise and intelligent and didst reveal them to babes.

²⁶ "Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing in Thy sight.

10 ...trust the sovereignty of Jesus

²⁷ "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

11 ...enjoy rest

²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.

³⁰ "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.

¹⁴ "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

¹⁵ "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb.

¹⁶ "And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God.

¹⁷ "And it is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:...

⁷⁶ "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways;

⁷⁷ To give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high shall visit us,

⁷⁹ To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰ And the child continued to grow, and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Matthew 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,

² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

³ For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'"

⁴ Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair, and a leather belt about his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea, and all the district around the Jordan;

⁶ and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸ "Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance;

⁹ and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you, that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

¹⁰ "And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹² "And His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

All Scripture is from the NASV