

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
May 23rd, 2021
Matthew 11:11-12

RECAP: Last week, we looked at Jesus' validation of John the Baptist. Even in spite of John's doubts and sins, Jesus makes it clear that John is the most honored prophet to exist.

THESIS: John is a unique figure in human history, and Jesus affirms His work and fate.

EXEGESIS: Matthew 11:11-12 (see also Luke 7:28, 16:16)

- **Verse 11;**
- **“Born of women”** is supposed to imply a universal emphatic statement. Among every single human being ever to exist on the planet, minus only Adam and Eve, John is great.
- **“But even smaller in the Kingdom of Heaven is he than the smallest.”** Clearly Jesus is making clear some ironic point of contrast. This requires some very careful deconstruction of exact phrasing.
 - **Kingdom Theology:** The Kingdom is a large and progressive doctrine. Both John and Jesus have been preaching, and teaching disciples to say, “The Kingdom is near.”
 - Even though John is honored above all other prophets, he did **not** live to see the Kingdom of Heaven's full and revealed beginning and inauguration in the New Covenant.
 - **ICCNT:** “The thought is that it is better to enter the kingdom than to herald its coming. John was unique amongst men, but citizenship of the kingdom will be better than his unique position.”
- **Verse 12;**
- The parallel in **Luke 16:16** is only surface level, and has a very different context.
- **“Violence.”** The Greek word is “*biastos*,” and appears only a few places in the GNT. It's typically used to describe a violence or force used by soldiers or military, but it has a few other uses.
 - **Acts 5:26, Acts 21:35** show uses of human violence, but in **Acts 2:2** the “force” of Pentecost.
 - If translated actively, *The Kingdom is forceful, violent, in it's coming.*
 - If translated passively, *The Kingdom suffers violence from John, up to Christ's coming.*
- **“the violent seize/take it.”** While hardly is the Kingdom of Heaven something people can conquer or take with physical force, Jesus is most definitely speaking of the world's efforts here to try to do so.

CONCLUSION:

- **We need to be thankful for the work of John the Baptist as herald of the New Covenant.**
- **We need to realize this cusp of biblical history hinges on John, and ultimately, Christ.**
- **We need to realize the New Covenant is greater than the Old.**
- **We are reminded that the Kingdom will be treated violently by the world.**