

Jesus and John

Matthew 11:1-19

by Don Falkos

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John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the Messiah? Or should we be looking for someone else?"

Jesus said, "Tell John what you've seen and heard: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the poor are hearing the good news. And tell him not to lose faith in me because I'm doing things differently from what he expected."

Jesus spoke to the crowd about John. "Did you go out into the desert to see tall grasses blown by the wind, or a man dressed in fine clothing? No. You went to see a prophet, and more than a prophet. Do you know what God said about John in the scriptures?

I will send my messenger ahead of you.
He will prepare the way for you.

"No one ever born on this earth is greater than John. But even the least important member of the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John. Before John, all the prophets and the Law of Moses looked forward to this moment in time. John is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come. And John has done his job, pointing the way to the Messiah. If you can hear my words, try to understand what I'm saying.

"The people of today are like children sitting in the marketplace, shouting to each other,

We played a happy tune for you,
but you wouldn't dance.
We sang a sad song for you,
but you wouldn't cry.

"John the Baptist fasts, and you say, 'He's possessed by an evil spirit.' The Son of Man eats and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard and a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' Don't jump to conclusions. Wisdom is vindicated by the actions it produces."