

**Speaker:** Pastor Buster Brown

**Today's Message:** The Pivotal Point of All History (The Inbreaking of the Kingdom of God)

**Today's Text:** Matthew 11:7-14

“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? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

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. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.”

**Matthew 11:7-14**

In this passage, the Lord affirms that He is the Messiah and underscored the courage, conviction and rootedness of John the Baptist.


In the context of this passage, we note the following:

1. There will be troubles in the kingdom. (v.12)

“that the kingdom has suffered violence, probably indicates opposition from the religious establishment, and the violent take it by force probably refers to the actions of specific evil people like Herod Antipas, who had arrested John.”

**ESV Study Bible, Footnote, Matthew 11:12**

(Continued)



**Deuteronomy 30:19-20** “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

**Psalms 4:6-8** “There are many who say, ‘Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!’ You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”

#### **The 4 Ps**

1. PROCLAMATION of the gospel of grace in multiple ways.
2. PRAYERFUL dependence on the Holy Spirit.
3. PEOPLE are God’s fellow workers.
4. PERSEVERANCE step by step.

**2 Corinthians 6:10** “...as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.”

**Romans 8:23** “And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

**2 Corinthians 5:2** “For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling...”

2. Because of the revelation of God in the flesh and His work on the cross for our sins, His bodily resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit “yet the one who is least in the kingdom of Heaven is greater than John the Baptist”.

3. Because of the inbreaking of the kingdom we have the forgiveness of sins and immediate access to the presence of the Living God. We’ve experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and have the assurance of the Hope of Heaven. (see John Owen vol 2, pp. 6,7,23; the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Scripture.)

## **QUESTIONS**

1. How is living the Christian life often “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (2 Corinthians 6:10)?
2. Explain how brokenness in a fallen world can either “break us open to the reality of the Living God, or break us down in distress and despair.
3. How is our position/privilege immensely greater than even John the Baptist?