

Series: The Child of Promise & Fulfillment – Part 7

Fourth Sunday in Advent – 2021

Saturday, 12/18 at 4:00 & Sunday, 12/19 at 9:00

Series: The Child of Promise & Fulfillment

What Is Your Reaction to John?



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Text: Matthew 11:7-11 NET

Christmas Eve at 6:00; Christmas Day at 10:00; Sun, Jan 26 at 9:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today concludes our Advent series: The Child of Prophecy and Fulfillment:

- Part 1 – Even though adoption can be a complex and expensive process, *God planned our adoption!*
- Part 2 – God promised His messenger, *John!*
- Part 3 – 400 years later, *John was born!*
- Part 4 – God promised His Son, *Jesus!*
- Part 5 – 400 years later, Zacharias explained *God's great mercy through Jesus!*
- Part 6 – God was silent *for 400 years!*
- Part 7 – Today, Jesus says some very important things about John. What is YOUR reaction?

1. **Text: Matthew 11:7-11:** ⁷ When [John's disciples] were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John:
 “What did you go out into the wilderness to see—a reed shaken by the wind?” ⁸ What did you go out to see—a man dressed in soft robes? Those who wear soft robes are in the palaces of kings. ⁹ What did you go out to see—a prophet? Let Me assure you, he is even more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one of whom it is written:
 I am sending My messenger ahead of **You**
 to prepare **Your** way before **You**.
¹¹ “I tell you the truth, there never has appeared among all of those born to women anyone greater than John the Baptizer. Yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.”
2. **Jesus Talks About John: Matthew 11:7-11:** ⁷ When [John's disciples] were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John: // Keep in mind that John was very different: ♦ **preaching** in the wilderness, ♦ **wearing** camel's hair, and ♦ **eating** locust (Mt. 3:1-4). He was *especially* different because *he boldly proclaimed God's truth – without compromise!* **Back then**, some were interested; **today**, many want their ears tickled, thus they want to *hear what fits their own desires* (2Ti. 4:3-4).
 - a. Again, *as John's disciples were leaving*, Jesus asked these questions of the crowd:
 - i. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see—a reed shaken by the wind?” // As a reed is swayed by the wind, so some Bible teachers are swayed by popular opinion, **BUT NOT JOHN!** He was different, *so many were curious!*

- ii. ⁸ **What did you go out to see—a man dressed in soft robes? Those who wear soft robes are in the palaces of kings. // How does life work in this fallen world?** A person figures out what a king (or president) wants to hear; **then** he tells him; and **then** he is rewarded with a high position and soft robes. **But John was the opposite**, telling the full truth – *no matter what kings thought OR might do to him!*
- iii. ⁹ **What did you go out to see—a prophet? Let Me assure you, he is even more than a prophet.** ¹⁰ **This is the one of whom it is written: I am sending My messenger ahead of You to prepare Your way before You.** // God spoke through Malachi the prophet, *about 400 BC*, to foretell John’s coming and work – *to prepare the way for God’s Son, the promised Messiah*. Some went out to see John out of curiosity, **but some longed in their hearts to** hear God’s truth, be moved to repent, and receive God’s gift of forgiveness.
- b. ¹¹ **I tell you the truth, there never has appeared among all of those born to women anyone greater than John the Baptizer. Yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.”**
- i. John is the greatest: He saw **and** baptized **and** prepared the way for the Christ!
 - ii. The Kingdom of heaven: It is located wherever a person is repentant, has faith

in Jesus for eternal life, and ✦welcomes Jesus to rule over his heart and life.

- iii. You are greater than John: How is that possible? Since John died before Jesus' death and resurrection, *we are greater because* we know about the amazing realities of Jesus' ✦sacrificial dying and ✦glorious resurrection!

3. **Now What?** During this Advent season, we have learned about ☹God's plan, ☹the execution of God's plan, ☹John preparing the way for Jesus, and ☹Jesus speaking very highly about John.
- Do you believe such things? **Y N**
 - Have you heeded John's call to repent? **Y N**
 - Are you embracing Jesus alone for heaven? **Y N**
 - Do others see your connection to Jesus? **Y N**
If yes, how? ✦Christmas card, ✦genuine love, ✦concern for the salvation of others, ✦etc.

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – John is the greatest OT prophet!
- **Relevance** – All who *listen to John* will *trust in Jesus!*
- **Inspiration** – Even though many are spiritually lost, *God is still calling the world to Repent and Believe!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, because of Your great love and mercy, the door to heaven is still open, so ✦open many ears, ✦pierce many hearts, and ✦transform many lives!

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