

V7 JESUS ADDRESSES THE CROWD ABOUT JOHN AS JOHN'S DISCIPLES ARE LEAVING MAYBE SOME HAD BEGUN TO WONDER ABOUT JOHN'S COMMITMENT TO THE MESSIAH IN LIGHT OF HIS QUESTION

JESUS ASK THEM A QUESTION WHAT DID YOU GO OUT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO SEE A REED SHAKEN BY THE WIND JOHN WAS NOT A REED THAT COULD BE SHAKEN BY EVERY BREEZE THAT BLEW

V8 NOR WAS HE A MAN DRESSED IN FINE CLOTHES THE KIND WORN IN KINGS PALACES MATT 3:4 JOHN WORE THE OPPOSITE JOHN WAS A TRUE PROPHET WHO PROCLAIMED WHO PROCLAIMED THE MESSAGE GOD DEMANDED REPENTANCE

V9-10 JOHN WAS MORE THAN A PROPHET HE WAS JESUS OWN MESSENGER HE PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE MESSIAH

V11 JESUS SAID THAT OF ALL THE MEN WHO HAD EVER LIVED ON EARTH NONE WAS GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST AND YET THE ONE WHO IS THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM IS GREATER THAN JOHN THE PRIVILEGES OF JESUS DISCIPLES SHARING IN THE KINGDOM WILL BE FAR GREATER THAN ANYTHING ANYONE COULD EXPERIENCE ON EARTH

V12 THE KINGDOM HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO VIOLENCE AND EVIL MEN WERE TRYING TO TAKE IT BY FORCE THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF JESUS DAY WERE RESISTING THE MOVEMENT INTRODUCED BY JOHN JESUS AND THE APOSTLES

V13 FOR ALL THE PROPHETS AND THE LAW PROPHESED UNTIL JOHN THEY STATED THAT THE MESSIAH WAS COMING JOHN SAID HE IS HERE

THEY WANTED A KINGDOM BUT NOT THE KIND JESUS WAS OFFERING SO THEY WERE RESISTING THE MESSAGE AND TRYING TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RULE BUT JOHN'S MESSAGE WAS TRUE AND IF THE NATIONS WOULD ACCEPT IT AND ACCEPT JESUS JOHN WOULD FULFILL THE PROPHECIES OF ELIJAH

V14 AND IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT JOHN HIMSELF IS ELIJAH WHO WAS TO COME LUKE 1:17 IT IS HE THAT WILL GO AS A FORERUNNER BEFORE HIM IN THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH JOHN WAS LIKE ELIJAH INTERNALLY IN SPIRIT AND POWER AND EXTERNALLY IN RUGGED INDEPENDENCE AND NON CONFORMITY

JESUS POINT WAS THAT IF THE JEWS RECEIVED JOHN'S MESSAGE AS GOD'S MESSAGE AND RECEIVED THE MESSIAH HE PROCLAIMED HE WOULD INDEED BE THE ELIJAH SPOKEN OF BY MALACHI MAL 4:5-6

BUT IF THEY REFUSED THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM ANOTHER ELIJAH-LIKE PROPHET WOULD BE SENT IN THE FUTURE PERHAPS ONE OF THE TWO WITNESSES OF REVELATION 11:1-19

V15 BECAUSE MOST JEWS DID NOT ACCEPT JOHN OR THE MESSIAH HE HERALDED JESUS GAVE A FINAL ADMONITION AND WARNING HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR LET HIM HEAR

JOHN IS INDEED THE FORERUNNER OF THE MESSIAH JESUS WAS SAYING AND I AM INDEED THE MESSIAH AS JOHN HAS TESTIFIED TO YOU I AM THE KING AND I AM OFFERING YOU THE KINGDOM INDIVIDUALLY AS YOU TURN TO ME IN PERSONAL FAITH AND NATIONALLY IF YOU COME TO ME AS GOD'S CHOSEN NATION

JOHN WAS THE GREATEST MAN TO LIVE BEFORE CHRIST BUT THE HIGHEST GREATNESS GOD OFFERS IS NOT LIKE JOHN'S JOHN WAS A UNIQUE MAN AND GREATLY USED BY GOD IN THE REDEMPTIVE SCHEME BEFORE THE NEW COVENANT

TRUE GREATNESS PALES JESUS SAYS BESIDES THOSE WHO ENTER HIS SPIRITUAL KINGDOM THROUGH TRUST IN HIM AS LORD AND SAVIOR IN THE NEW COVENANT TRUE GREATNESS IS NOT LIKE BEING LIKE JOHN THE BAPTIST BUT BEING LIKE CHRIST

THAT IS THE ONE PEARL OF GREAT VALUE FOR WHICH IS WORTH SACRIFICING EVERYTHING ELSE MATT 13:46