

Study #9 - Matthew 11.1-19

Q1 - What does it say?

"The Prophets and the Law" is another way to refer to the Hebrew Scriptures, our Old Testament.

"A reed shaken by the wind" is a Semitic expression for teaching which panders to prevailing public opinion.

Q2 - What does it mean?

Immediate context:

- Earlier, Jesus gave a detailed mission to his disciples. What happens right at the start of chapter 11? Why is there no description of the disciples' mission?
- Jesus' teaching on John leads immediately into a denunciation of towns which have not repented (v.20). What did John proclaim during his ministry? Why is repentance so important?

In Matthew:

- Matt 11.3 "Are you the one who is to come?" John and his disciples have expressed hesitation already in Matt 9.14
- Matt 11.5 "the blind receive their sight..." We just witnessed this list of miracles in chs.8-9
- Matt 11.11 "Yet the one who is least..." is a striking statement on John's ministry. Compare with Matt 5.19 and 20.16. Jesus' parables to John's disciples in ch.9 also help us understand what Jesus is getting at here.
- Matt 11.16 "He who has ears..." is concerned with the revelation of what? See Matt 13.9, 43 (also Jer 5.21 and Ezek 12.2)

Elsewhere in scripture:

- Matt 11.5 "the blind receive their sight..." Jesus' miracles are a fulfillment of Isaiah 35 and 61 (among others)
- Matt 11.10,14 "Behold I will send my messenger...he is Elijah who is to come" Jesus quotes Malachi 3.1. Read Mal 3 and 4. What does Elijah's coming mean?

Q3 - What has been revealed about Jesus through this passage?

Jesus' statements on John are startling. What does this reveal about the nature of Jesus' ministry?

Q4 - How will I respond? What will I pray?