

# **Matthew 11:7-15**

## ***The Greatest***

April 14, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

### **Intro**

**Matthew 11** - *"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there hasn't risen one greater than John the Baptist."*

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### **1. John was great because he overcame his weakness.**

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**#1 - He admitted he had a weakness.**

### **Verse 3**

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**#2 - He went to the Lord for help.**

### **Verse 2**

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**#3 - He listened to what God said.**

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**2. John was great because he was strong in his convictions.**

### **Verse 7**

*"If you stand for something you'll have people for you and people against you. But if you stand for nothing you'll have nobody for you and nobody against you."*

**Peter Marshall, former chaplain of the U.S. Senate:** *"If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for everything."*

**3. John was great because he lived a simple life.**

### **Verse 8**

**Hebrews 13:5- Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.**

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**Richard Foster describes simplicity as “a life of joyful unconcern for possessions... that reorients our lives so that possessions can be genuinely enjoyed without destroying us.”**

**“If what we have we receive as a gift, and if what we have is to be cared for by God, and if what we have is available to others, then we will possess freedom from anxiety.”**

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### **4. John was great because he followed his calling.**

**John 1:29, 35-37** - "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ...Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples and said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak and *they followed Jesus*.

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### **5. John was great because of how his life impacted others.**

#### **Verse 12**

This verse can be translated two ways.

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The way it is here in the NKJV: **The kingdom of heaven suffers violence...**

God's kingdom is under attack!

The verse can also be translated: **From the time of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people lay hold of it.**

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