

**Be Reformed** – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

**Be Charismatic** – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

**Be Community** – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

**Be Missional** – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

## Matthew 11:7-15

7 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? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written,

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

11 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. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

ALSO READ  
Malachi 4

## Study Guide 30 Jan 2011 – The Greatness of the Kingdom



### Summary

Jesus talks about John the Baptist in this passage. John was more than a prophet – he was also the fulfillment of prophecy and the one who would usher in Jesus Christ. Jesus calls him the greatest man ever born.

Yet Jesus tells us that anyone who is in the kingdom is greater than John. It is faith, not position, which approves us before God. Being part of the kingdom is such a vital thing that Satan and God's enemies oppose it with all the violence they can muster. Why?

Malachi 4 talks about the "Elijah to come". Jesus is saying that the "day of the Lord" refers to His work of redemption on the cross. He is the sun that "hardens the clay and melts the ice" – destruction to sinners and redemption to those who place faith in Jesus Christ.

Christians have great hope. What we have in Christ is eternal and secure, and the best is yet to be. No pain or suffering here is lasting, and no price too great. This life is as bad it will ever get for those who believe.

But for those who reject Jesus, this short life is the best they can experience, and eternal horrors await them.

### Key points

Our hope is in Jesus! This hope makes us greater than anyone on earth can ever hope to be.

### Questions

- >>Has anyone ever praised you the way Jesus praised John?
- >>What is this "kingdom of heaven" Jesus keeps talking about?
- >>How does being "least in the kingdom" make us greater than John?
- >>Does the fact that you will die/the world will end give you comfort or strike fear in you?
- >>What gives you hope?

### Final thoughts

God's kingdom is coming! Are we looking forward to it in hope or cringing in fear?