

## *Matthew Chapter 11*

---

V: 1 “Commanding” –1299. diatasso, (dee-at-as'-so); also rendered: to order, to appoint, to ordain.

- Essentially Jesus commissions His disciples, empowers them to do what He is doing.
- After the Apostles are sent out, Jesus himself goes out to “teach” and to “preach”.

**Preach:** (G2784) kerusso, kay-roos'-so; to herald (as a public crier), espec. divine truth (the gospel):--preach (-er), proclaim, publish.

**1 Corinthians 1:18-21** “<sup>18</sup>For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. <sup>20</sup>Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup>For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

**Titus 1:3** “But hath in due times manifested His word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour.”

**Teach:** (G1321) didasko, did-as'-ko; a prol.; to teach; to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them; to impart instruction; to instill doctrine.

- Teaching brings believers into maturity in their faith:

**1 Peter 2:2** “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

**Hebrews 5:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup>But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

**Isaiah 28:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. <sup>10</sup>For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

**1 Timothy 4:13** “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

V: 2 “*When John heard in prison the works of Christ...*” - His fame spread abroad, everybody knew what He was doing.

- John is in prison for speaking the truth, for speaking out about Herod Antipas and Herodius. Antipas had gone to Rome and there met Herodius, grand daughter to Herod the Great, and husband to Herod Philip. Herod Antipas came home and divorced his wife, then took Herodius as wife.

**Matthew 14:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias’ sake, his brother Philip’s wife. <sup>4</sup>For John said unto him, it is not lawful for thee to have her.”

**Matthew 5:12** “Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

**Matthew 10:18-19, 28** “<sup>18</sup>And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.” “<sup>28</sup>And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

- As Jesus exhorts us and encourages us – there is still no guarantee that we won’t end up in jail, or martyred for our faith – just as John the Baptist was.

V: 3 John the Baptist, languishing in prison becomes somewhat discouraged it seems. He knows that Jesus is the Messiah but doesn’t understand what is taking so long.

- John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah, who was also at times discouraged.
- John, like the others is also looking for the “King” Vs the “Servant”.

**Genesis 49:10** “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.”

**Numbers 24:17** “I shall see Him, but not now: I shall behold Him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.”

- Not long after Jesus was born the Romans took to the power of capitol punishment away from the Jews (4 AD), removing the scepter. The Priests, Scribes, and religious leaders all began to mourn and lament because the Word of God had somehow failed. The Scepter had been removed, but where was the Messiah? Not knowing that He has been born of a virgin and was growing up in their midst.

V: 4 They are told “go show John again those things”

Show G518. apaggello, ap-ang-el'-lo; to announce:--bring word (again), declare, report, show (again), tell.

- He' already been told about the things that are taking place. **Luke 7:18-19**

**Luke 7:13-19** “<sup>13</sup>And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto her, weep not. <sup>14</sup>And He came and touched the bier / coffin: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, young man, I say unto thee, arise. <sup>15</sup>And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, that a great prophet is risen up among us; and, that God hath visited His people. <sup>17</sup>And this rumor of Him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about. <sup>18</sup>And the disciples of John shewed him all these things. <sup>19</sup>And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, art thou He that should come? Or look we for another?”

- John came in the spirit of Elija – **Luke 1:17** – and like Elija he was at times discouraged just as Elija was.

V: 5 Tell John – prophesy fulfilled.

**Isaiah 35:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup>Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

**Isaiah 29:18-19** “<sup>18</sup>And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. <sup>19</sup>The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.”

- Credentials:

**John 14:11** “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the very works sake.”

V: 6 Jesus is always the sticking point, He is the rock of offense.

**1 Peter 2:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. <sup>7</sup>Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, <sup>8</sup>and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”

**Matthew 10:32-33** “<sup>32</sup>Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

V: 7 Grass blowing in the wind?

**Ephesians 4:14** “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive,”

**James 1:8** “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

---

**Psalms 60:6** “He only is my Rock and my Salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.”

**Ephesians 6:13** “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

V: 8 Jesus is challenging their perspective and their expectations. They may have been looking for or expecting a charismatic leader, some kind of imposing presence, and expectation that might not match up to reality.

- This is the thing that would keep many from recognizing the Messiah when He came. There was an expectation of a conquering hero, a military man who would restore all things through the conventional methods of the day. They weren't looking for someone to come as a humble servant, someone who would suffer and die for their sins.
- What did you expect? What do we expect?

**2 Timothy 3:12** “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

- Soft clothes? No! Camel's hair & leather.

**Matthew 3:4** “And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.”

- No soft clothes, no soft life!

**2 Timothy 2:3** “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

V: 9-10 More than a prophet, a herald.

Quoting and fulfilling **Malachi 3:1**

**Malachi 3:1** “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.”

John’s testimony:

**John 1:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>The same came for a witness to bear witness of the Light, that all men through Him might believe. <sup>8</sup>He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”

**John 1:19-23** “<sup>19</sup>And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, who art thou? <sup>20</sup>And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, what then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, no. <sup>22</sup>Then said they unto him, who art thou? That we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? <sup>23</sup>He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.” (Isaiah 40:3)

- Not a fulfillment of **Malachi 4:5-6**.

**Malachi 4:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: <sup>6</sup>And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

V: 11 Greater than Abraham, Moses, David, Elija? According to Jesus, “yes”.

**1 Peter 1:10-12** “<sup>10</sup>Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: <sup>11</sup>Searching what, or what manner of time the spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. <sup>12</sup>Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

- Jesus was speaking of John's privilege, not his character. A person who is least in the kingdom of heaven does not necessarily have a better character than John, but he does have a greater privilege.
  - To be a citizen of the kingdom is greater than to announce its arrival.
- 

V: 12 Suffering violence, the violent taking it by force.

**Ephesians 6:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

- From the days of John the Baptist they have been trying to kill Jesus, and in general been opposed to Him.

**Matthew 2:16** – Herod, **Matthew Ch. 4** - the Devils temptations.

**Matthew 23:29-31** “<sup>29</sup>Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous, <sup>30</sup>And say, if we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. <sup>31</sup>Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.”

- While the Bible attests that most of the prophets died violent deaths through the ages, that violence did not end with the birth or establishment of the church.
- The persecution of the church under the Roman Caesars is well known.

Quoting from: The Footprints of the Jesuits, R.W. Thompson  
“Which Bible”, David Otis Fuller

1. 35 years after Martin Luther had nailed his theses to the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg German, Protestantism was sweeping over Europe.
2. Germany, England, the Scandinavian countries, Holland, Switzerland were all protestant.
3. France, Poland, Bavaria, Austria, and Belgium were all beginning to swing in that direction.
4. This all started with Martin Luther translating the Greek New Testament of Erasmus, which was the received text or Textus Receptus. The Word of God had been turned loose in the common language.
5. The medieval papacy awakened from it's lethargy and recognized that in basically 1/3 of a century, the reformation had carried away nearly 2/3 of Europe.

6. The papacy was looking in every direction for direction and help – thus enters the order of the Jesuits.
7. The Catholic church has 69 organization of men, some of which have been in existence for over a thousand years.
8. The Benedictines were founded about 540 AD. There are the Augustinians – to which Martin Luther belonged who numbered at one time 35,000. There are the Capuchins, the Dominicans, and many others.
9. These men of the various orders never marry but live in communities, or fraternal houses, commonly known as monastery's. Each organization or order exists for a distinct line of endeavor or purpose, and each is directly under the order of the Pope. In times past they were essentially the army of the Pope, the militant wing of the church.
10. The monks are called the regular clergy, while the priests, bishops, and others who conduct churches are called the secular clergy.
11. It has been said that if the Jesuits had not come forward and offered to save the situation, today there might not be a Catholic Church.
12. The founder of the Jesuits was a Spaniard, Ignatius Loyola, whom the Catholic Church has canonized and made Saint Ignatius.
13. Ignatius Loyola came forward and said in effect: Let the Augustinians continue to provide monasteries of retreat for contemplative minds; let the Benedictines give themselves up to the field of literary endeavor; let the Dominicans retain their responsibility for maintaining the Inquisition; but we, the Jesuits, will capture the colleges and the universities. We will gain control of instruction in law, medicine, science, education, and so weed out from all books of instruction, anything injurious to Roman Catholicism.
14. We will enroll ourselves as Protestant preachers and college professors in the different Protestant faiths. Sooner or later, we will undermine the authority of the Greek New Testament of Erasmus, and also of those Old Testament productions which have dared to raise their heads against tradition. And thus will we undermine the Protestant Reformation.
15. Soon thereafter the Jesuit bible of 1582 was launched to combat the Tyndale's English Version of the Bible.

The enemy's tactics: attack the word of God.

**Genesis 3:1** “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, yea, hath God said...”

V: 13 The Old Testament ended with John the Baptist, not **Malachi**.

**Luke 16:16** “The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and ever man presseth into it.”

- The Tanakh, also known as the Masoretic text, the canon of Hebrew scripture, or the Hebrew Bible, which is what we call the OT, actually ends with 2 Chronicles, the poetic and prophetic books are all part of that chronology. This is different than Torah (1<sup>st</sup> 5 books of the Bible)

V: 14 John denied being Elija (**Jn. 1:19-29**) because his coming was not a fulfillment of **Malachi 4:5-6**, he did come in the “spirit” of Elija – **Luke 1:17**.

**Luke 1:17** “And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

**Malachi 4:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: <sup>6</sup>And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

**Revelation 11:3** “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy one thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”

**Matthew 17:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>And Jesus answered and said unto them, indeed, Elijah truly shall first come, and restore all things. <sup>12</sup>But I say unto you, that Elijah is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.”

V: 15 “*He that has ears to hear, let him hear.*”

**John 10:27** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

**Revelation 2:7** “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;...”

**Isaiah 30:21** “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

**Proverbs 19:20** “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.”

**Deuteronomy 28:1-13** (Turn to / read)



V: 16-17 What should I compare you to? You're like children playing in the marketplace.

- I've pipe / played a joyful song for you and you wouldn't dance.
- I played a mournful song for you, and you wouldn't play along with that either.
- Nothing makes you happy.

I

V: 18 John was dedicated to the Lord with a Nazirite vow.

**Luke 1:15** “For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.”

Nazirite vow: Temporary or life long, as consecrated by parents.

1. Hair, no hair cuts.
  2. No alcohol or wine, nothing made from grapes.
  3. No contact with dead things.
- John is fasting, he's proclaiming the coming of the King – he is deflecting all glory and attention to God – he's not claiming to be anybody.
  - John is living an exemplary life – yet they say he has a devil!

V: 19 “**Son of Man**” A prophetic title from **Daniel 7:13**, Jesus' most used title to speak of Himself.

- There are some people who you just can't please no matter what.
- Some people think it's a gift to find a fault...

“The Devil's advocate...”

- Can't keep everyone happy.
- Given that choice, seek to please God.

**Matthew 6:24** “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

**Matthew 6:33** “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

“*Wisdom is justified of her children*”, meaning wisdom is proven by it's offspring, it's results, by the fruit of it.

**Matthew 12:33** “... for the tree is known by his fruit.”

V: 20 – 24 Pronouncement of woes to the un-repentant cities. To these cities which had heard the truth, they had seen the Light of the World, yet they did not turn from their wicked ways, they did not repent.

**Luke 12:48** “But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whosoever much is given of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”

**John 20:30** “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book.”

- “Woe” – not harsh, but a pitiful or mournful expression.
- Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum, all desolate ruins.
- Describes degrees of punishment. They didn’t see what you saw, the light shined in your midst.

**2 Peter 2:21** “For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”

- Capernaum, Jesus’ home and H.Q., rejected Him.
- Again, degrees of punishment.

**John 5:22** “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”

**Psalm 2:12** “Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.”

V: 25 “Answered” – [response of constant prayer and communion with the Father.](#)

- Hid from the wise.

**Psalm 8:2** “Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou have ordained strength, ...”

**1 Cor. 1:26-27** “<sup>26</sup>For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: <sup>27</sup>But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;”

**1 Cor. 3:19** “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness;”

**1 Cor. 1:18** “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

V: 26 God’s sovereignty manifest!

**1 Samuel 2:6-8** “<sup>6</sup>The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. <sup>7</sup>The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: He bringeth low, and lifteth up. <sup>8</sup>He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and He hath set the world upon them.”

V: 27 All things are in His hands. Jesus has absolute control.

**Matthew 28:18** “... all power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.”

A=B, and B=C, so A=C.

- **Know:** epignosko      **reveal:** apokalupto

**John 14:6** “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

**John 14: 8-9** “<sup>8</sup>Phillip saith unto Him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. <sup>9</sup>Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then shew us the Father?”

**Hebrews 1:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;”

---

V: 28 No longer a corporate invitation, now appealing to individuals, having been rejected by the nation & cities of Israel / Jerusalem.

- “*Come*” Vs Pharisees / religion “do”

**Genesis 7:1** “And the Lord said unto Noah, come thou and all thy house into the ark....”

**Isaiah 40:11** “He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

- Come unto “Me” – specific:

**John 14:6** “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

- The Jews gave out heavy burdens, religion in general is cumbersome and difficult.

**Matthew 23:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. <sup>4</sup>For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”

**Acts 15:10** “Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?”

- When it came down to it, who was able to keep the Law? No one.
- “All” = everybody. Jews, Gentiles, everybody.

**Romans 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

**Galatians 3:28** “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

- “Heavy laden” = loaded down with sin.

**Isaiah 1:4** “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity...”

**Psalms 38:4** “For mine iniquities are gone over mine head; as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.”

V: 29 Take my yoke upon you – submit, do what I do.

- Learn, discipleship, more than just believing.

**John 8:31-32** “<sup>31</sup>Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; <sup>32</sup>and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

**John 15:14** “Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you.”

Learn of Me:

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Study to show yourself approved of God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

**Isaiah 40:7** “Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of Me.”

“Rest” = peace – the absence of strife or labor.

**Philippians 4:6-7** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

**John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

V: 30 “Easy” = well fitting. Carpenters made custom fitted yokes for each oxen.

**1 John 5:3** “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome / grievous.”

- If your “burden” is heavy or hard, it’s not from the Lord.
- It’s easier to please God than man.

**Jeremiah 23:33-40** don’t say “burden of the Lord!”