

Treasure Hunt

- What is the difference between “the multitudes” and “the disciples” in Matthew?
- Why does the Lord ask the multitudes the questions in vv. 7-9?
- How are vv. 10-14 organized, and what alerts us to this organization?
- Who is “the least in the kingdom of heaven” to whom the Lord refers in v. 11?
- Why is such a person greater than John?
- How does v. 13 reinforce v. 11?
- How does the structure of the passage help us to resolve the ambiguity of v. 12?
- Why is v. 15 necessary, and how is it appropriate to the audience whom the Lord is addressing?

Multitudes vs. Disciples

Matt. 4:25 And there followed him great **multitudes** of people from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, and *from* Jerusalem, and *from* Judaea, and *from* beyond Jordan. 5:1 And seeing the **multitudes**, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his **disciples** came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them,

Matt. 13:36 Then Jesus sent the **multitude** away, and went into the house: and his **disciples** came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

Lk. 14:25 And there went great **multitudes** with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

- 26 If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, **he cannot be my disciple.**
- 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple.**
- ... 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, **he cannot be my disciple.**

The Initiative in Salvation

Jn. 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast *day*, many believed πιστευω in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. 24 But Jesus did not commit πιστευω himself unto them, because he knew all *men*,

This in turn anticipates Paul's exhortation to the Galatians,

Gal. 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Salvation is a work of God's grace in our hearts, not something that is under our control. We

Our Lord Quotes Malachi

Malachi	Matthew
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.	11:10 For this is <i>he</i> , of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee .
4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:	11:14 And if ye will receive <i>it</i> , this is Elias, which was for to come.

The Chiasm of Matt 11:10-14

The Herald	10 For this is <i>he</i> , of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.	14 And if ye will receive <i>it</i> , this is Elias, which was for to come.
The Change	11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.	13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.
What to Expect	12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.	

John and “The Least in the Kingdom”

“Least” = ο μικροτερος (not ελαχιστος as in 5:19)

Use elsewhere in Matthew:

Matt. 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these **little ones** a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matt. 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these **little ones** which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ...

10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these **little ones**; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. ... 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these **little ones** should perish.

→ Babes in Christ, immature believers

Promised in the prophets:

Zech. 12:8 **In that day** shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and **he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David**; and the house of David *shall be* as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

Interpretive Options in Matt 11:12

		The kingdom of heaven ...	
		Negative: suffers violence	Positive: advances forcefully
The Violent ...	Negative: those who attack the kingdom	The attacks of wicked men are taking their toll on the kingdom.	The kingdom is advancing, in spite of the opposition of wicked men who seek to take it over for their own purposes.
	Positive: eagerness of people to press into the kingdom	Everybody is trying to get into the kingdom, though it is under attack (by whom?)	The kingdom is advancing and everyone wants to join

The Kingdom:

Malachi's Hints to Matt 11:12

Mal. 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? **for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:**

Mal. 3:5 And I will come near to you to **judgment**; and I will be **a swift witness** against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Mal. 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall **burn as an oven**; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be **stubble**: and **the day that cometh shall burn them up**, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Mal 4:3 And **ye shall tread down the wicked**; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do *this*, saith the LORD of hosts.

Violent men:

Mal. 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet **ye have robbed me**. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation.

Mal. 3:13 **Your words have been stout against me**, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so *much* against thee? 14 Ye have said, It *is* vain to serve God: and what profit *is it* that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? 15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, *they that* tempt God are even delivered.