



What Did You Go See?

Matt 11:7-14



What Did You Go Out to See? (vv. 7-10)

➤ Three Rhetorical Questions

➤ A Reed?

➤ A “Soft” Man?

➤ A Prophet?

➤ The Appointed Messenger - Mal 3:1

Great and Greater—An Astonishing Reality (vv. 11)

- ▶ “those born of women” = everyone in human history up until then
 - ▶ Roll Call...
 - ▶ Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Nehemiah, Daniel
- ▶ Why is John ‘Greater’?
 - ▶ His ministry is the culmination of preparing the way for God to visit his people
 - ▶ He testifies to Jesus more unambiguously than any testimony before him
- ▶ ‘Greater’ Than John? Really?
 - ▶ A future Kingdom?
 - ▶ A reflexive?
 - ▶ Morally better?
 - ▶ More knowledgeable?
 - ▶ Better privileges?
 - ▶ A Contextual Answer: we are a fuller and more clear witness to God in Christ than even John



An Odd, Difficult Interjection (v. 12)

- ▶ **Timeframe?**
- ▶ **Three main views**
 - ▶ **Violence *to* the Kingdom (e.g., John in prison)**
 - ▶ **Violence as a means of *bringing in* the Kingdom (e.g., Zealots)**
 - ▶ **The “forceful advancement” of the Kingdom (e.g., militant triumph over spiritual and worldly opposition)**



The Finale (vv. 13-14)

- **Mal. 4:5**

- **Elijah Precedes *Yahweh*, not the Messiah in Mal 4:5**

- **An incredible claim to divinity**

- **He Who *Has Ears***



Application

- **Understanding: The Hermeneutical Priority of the New Testament**
 - **Trusting Hope: Our Unrealized Significance in God's Redemptive Plan**
 - **Thankfulness: Our Privileged Location in Redemptive History**
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