



Sunday 19 May 2013

GO DEEPER WITH GOD

11. A RENEWED MIND:
TAKING THE KINGDOM BY FORCE, CON'T



SCRIPTURES

- Acts 10:38
- Matthew 11:2-15
- Matthew 7:7-9

ACTS 10:38

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

MATTHEW 11:2-15

Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?” ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”

⁷ As these men were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces! ⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

MATTHEW 11:2-15

'Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,
Who will prepare Your way before You.'

¹¹ Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone 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 suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. ¹³ For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

MATTHEW 7:7-9

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

SO FAR

- Our agenda must be His: His Kingdom come!
 - His will being done
 - Healing, deliverance, GOOD
- Called to an impossible level of living
- How to get there?
 - A renewed mind
 - A seeking heart
 - A willingness to obey completely

VIOLENT MEN?

- Matt 11
 - John saw or didn't see something in Jesus's ministry that he was expecting
 - Jesus directs Him to the evidence
- From John till then
 - kingdom of God suffers violence?
 - violent men take it by force?

VIOLENT MEN?

- In Matthew 1-11
 - leper healed
 - centurion's servant healed
 - Pete's mother in law healed
 - Gadarene demoniacs delivered
 - paralytic healed
 - synagogue official's daughter healed
 - two blind men healed
 - 'all', 'many'

VIOLENT MEN?

- many interpretations...
- all depends on how the word 'violence' is interpreted...
- "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it"

VIOLENT MEN?

- can't wait for the Kingdom to 'show up'...
 - entangled with the affairs of everyday life
 - work out your salvation...
 - faith without works is dead...

