

*Matthew 11:7-15 / "Having Ears to Hear"
Hearing the unanticipated from God.*

What Can't Be Of God, May Well Be (vv. 7-11)

- Jesus was talking to the crowd following the arrest of John and the coming of some of his disciples.

Three times He asks the crowd regarding John, "*What did you go out to see?*"

- He challenged them regarding their expectations.

What were they looking for?

Did they expect a man who was influenced by the "*winds*" of public opinion?

Where they looking for someone who "*looked the part?*"

What did they find?

One not swayed by the opinions, thoughts, and reactions of others. This was why John was in prison even as Jesus spoke.

One who didn't look the part; he wore camel hair and ate locust and wild honey.

- While John may not have been what they expected, he was a prophet.

Even if they didn't recognize it, he was one of the greatest.

What Must Be Of God, Maybe Isn't (v. 12)

- The trouble with John, and Jesus for that matter, is they were a contradiction in word, deed, and spirit when compared to many of the religious leaders.

- Some advocated "*violence*" as a means of ushering God's Kingdom.

- Others abused the people, bullying them around to make them do what was *right*.

- They misled the people as to what sort of behavior and character to expect from "*prophets*."

A Willing and Receptive Spirit is Essential for the Recognition of Truth (vv. 13-15)

- Jesus tells the crowd, "*If you are willing to accept it...*" John was the fulfillment of the Elijah prophecy.

- If they were willing to listen, all that was needed to recognize the truth would be given.

- There exists a disconnect between what people look for, what they think and expect, and what is reality.

- This disconnect exists because of an unwillingness to listen and the rush to judgment.

- The truths of God **are** self-evident. So much so, that people are "*without excuse*." (Romans 1:20).