**Stand Up**

**Matthew 11: 7-15, 20-24**

**7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’**

**11 “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and violent people take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John came, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 Let anyone with ears listen!**

**20Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. 21“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. “For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”**

**I. Terms to Know**

**prophet** - one who speaks on behalf of a God or who is divinely inspired to reveal the will of a God.

**John the Baptist** - a preacher who baptized people. John called people to turn to God and to prepare for the coming of the messiah (Jesus).

**prophesied** - a prediction or warning of future events.

**Elijah** - a prophet of God who lived during a time when the people of Israel were worshipping false gods.

**reproach** - to express disappointment in or displeasure with (a person) for conduct that is blameworthy or in need of amendment.

**sackcloth** - a coarse cloth of goat or camel's hair or of flax, hemp, or cotton worn as a sign of mourning or penitence.

**II. Summary**: **Jesus affirming John the Baptist as a great prophet who prepared the way for him, while also condemning cities like Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum for their rejection of his ministry despite witnessing many miracles, highlighting that even "wicked" cities like Tyre and Sidon would have repented if given the same opportunity; essentially, Jesus is emphasizing the importance of recognizing and accepting the message of the Messiah when it is presented to them.**

**What does Matthew 11:7-15, 20-24 teach?**

* **John the Baptist's greatness: Jesus declares that among all born of women, no one is greater than John the Baptist, signifying his significant role as a forerunner to the Messiah.**
* **"Violent taking of the kingdom": The phrase "the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force" means that people must actively pursue and strive to enter the kingdom of God with zeal and commitment.**
* **Condemnation of cities: Jesus criticizes Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum for their lack of repentance despite witnessing his miracles, indicating that their judgment will be harsher than that of pagan cities like Tyre and Sidon.**
* **Invitation to rest: Following the condemnation, Jesus offers rest to those who are weary and burdened, inviting them to come to him to find peace.**

**III. Questions**

**1. When did Jesus begin to speak to the multitude?**

**2. What question did He (Jesus) repeat?**

**3. What did He say about those who had ears?**

**4. What two cities did He say “woe” unto?**

**5. What did He say would happen to Capernaum?**