Mat 110

Who do desire behind the pulpit?

Bahamas in prayer

Quick update…I did just speak with a videographer which is the second guy I have contacted in the past year or so and he only works with large clients and right now he seems to busy and way out of my league financially so I am putting that on hold.

I get the sense God wants me to just keep plugging along… and if it ain’t broke don’t fix it.

I’ve prayed about it on and off over the past year and I truly don’t have the time, knowledge or financial resources to build a polished studio and hire a professional videographer to get me off the ground…so I gave it over to God I get the sense He will bring something my way next year and that is right around the corner so no worries.

My job is to study and teach and just get it out there so lets plug into and get it down Royal family…turn to Matthew chapter 11.

Grace Bible Church is doing an outreach this Saturday 12 to 4pm.

It is at Kennedy Park in Fall River, if your in the area we will be out there evangelizing.

Mat 11:4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see:

[Mat 11:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/11/5/s_940005) *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.

/[Mat 11:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/11/6/s_940006) “And blessed is he who does not take **offense** at Me.”\

SCAN-DO-LEE-ZO scandalous…it is used here in the sense of shock and disdain.

You will find real religious people get shocked by grace and truth…it actually offends their legalistic nature.

/[Mat 11:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/11/7/s_940007) 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?\

[Mat 11:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/11/8/s_940008) “But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing?* Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ palaces!

[Mat 11:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/11/9/s_940009) “But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet.

[Mat 11:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/11/10/s_940010) “This is the one about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU,
WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’

Malachi chapter 3 and Isa 40:3 both point us to this prophetic scripture.

I want to focus on why TLJC gets into this set of questions in Matt 11:7 – 9.

Who did you come out to see?

This question carries great weight today in the CA.

/Matt 11:7-9 actual speaks to the legalistic crowd yet it was also designed for the Bels who had preconceived notions about spirituality or what a man of God should look like or act like.\

This falls under that concept of unrealistic expectations.

I think today will be a very easy class to hear and enjoyable but it may also burst your bubble about what some men of God were like….it may help wake you up to the fact that we all put unrealistic expectations on people and circumstances and we often judge on first sight instead of content of the person’s soul.

What may be lost in this set of scriptures is a little divine sarcasm on behalf of TLJC.

/Matt 11:7- *“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?*

This speaks to the personality of the man, does he gentle flow with the breeze or whatever the crowd desires?\

John the Baptist was a man comfortable living off the land….proper hygiene and a gentle personality were very limited in his personality traits.

John the Baptist called out Herod for his immorality and did so publicly….John the Baptist called out and challenged the Scribes & Pharisees. This was the attitude of a brawler for truth not a gentle reed who blows which ever way the wind blows.

/John the Baptist taught tough eschatology lessons;

Luk 3:11 “Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so **every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down** and thrown into the fire.”\

He is described as fiery and abrasive in some circumstances.

Some of these principles I covered in my early lesson in the book of Matthew.

/Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “**You brood of vipers**, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?\

John the Baptist didn’t teach the popular message he taught what God had led him to teach…the coming Messiah, repentance and the future kingdom.

He didn’t chase people around to try and teach them…they came to him and many felt insulted or intimidated and in their emotional response they ran in the other direction.

/Mat 11:8 But what did you go out to see? **A man dressed in soft *clothing****?* Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ palaces!

This spoke to his manner of dress and the appearance on the surface.\

John the Baptist wore camel hair suits and ate insects and honey along with whatever nuts and berries that nature provided.

Jesus came as a carpenter in fact a laborer not a king.

It was the Pharisees who had nice jewelry and long flowing gowns and the Sadducees who sat at the government tables and broke bread with the wealthy and the elite.

If you took John the Baptist and one of the Pharisees and placed them side by side most Bels would point to the Pharisee as the spiritual guru and leader they would follow.

Even once they spoke you would still choose the Pharisee over John the Baptist because the Pharisee would be an eloquent speaker and come across like a scholar.

The last question is great as well-

/[Mat 11:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/11/9/s_940009) “But what did you go out to see? **A prophet**? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet.

The Lord raises John above many others as high praise but the first part speaks to the message they came to hear.\

You see the prophecy was what the majority wanted to hear. The prophecy they desired was about the Messiah who would ride in on a white horse with flowing robes and gold jewelry and with all power and might this awesome Jewish King would crush the Roman Empire and raise the Jews above everyone else. REPEAT

This is the message they wanted to hear this is the message they came out to hear.

They wanted their king to give them the authority and exact revenge on their enemies.

/They desired the crown before the Cross and in desiring a certain message many rejected the truth of what John the Baptist taught them. When God uses an evangelist or pastor it isn’t to please the crowd or to gain power, it is to speak HIS word with accuracy and authority.\

In fact, one of the reason God uses the least of mankind is to elevate HIS word not the man…the message needs to be elevated not the man.

God uses all kinds of men and woman inside His plan but when it comes to His teachers, He wants the truth of His word to come forth not the eloquence of the speaker or the outward appearance.

/Peter and Paul were considered the two leaders in the early church. Paul was trained as a Pharisee and came from Jewish, upper middle class with Roman citizenship. Peter was a fisher man with much less education and clout than Paul and Peter was much more inclined to wear his emotions on his sleeve….polar opposites!\

GOD USED BOTH TO TEACH HIS WORD.

I taught something on Gideon last lesson, he was a farm boy who was surrounded by idol worship the worship of BAAL.

Family and friends negative toward God, yet God plucked him right off the farm and used him as a leader.

/Samson was immature in many aspects and weak in the area of lust. David and his son Solomon both struggled with weakness toward the ladies. Jacob was a liar and swindler. Abraham lacked strength in his leadership role at times.\

Ask yourself do any of these men look perfect to you?

Who do you think wants us to measure our spiritual leaders by unrealistic standards?

Satan loves when we search out perfection in people, he knows it’s a journey in frustration and will cause division in the long run.

/Timothy and Titus- polar opposites. Timothy was not an authoritative leader he was soft (mommy’s boy). Titus was a Greek Bel, a rough and tumble man who would sometimes travel alone and set up churches or bring Paul’s epistles to difficult areas.\

Paul had to nurture and train Timothy but with Titus you get the sense Paul would just point and Titus would go.

Remember when I taught that lesson on the different personalities of the Apostles it covers this type of principle.

The reality is there is a large following of spiritual nonsense and false doctrines and denominational dogma because people are suckers for this.

The Apostle Paul in his training of Timothy pointed out this very issue.

/2Tim 4:3 for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.\

When TLJC asks… what did they come out into the wilderness to see…it was a duel purpose of letting the Scribes & Pharisees know that He was onto their religious games and at the same time it was a wake up call for weak Bels and people who were seeking a message or teacher to fit their own lifestyle & beliefs.

/Bels do not dictate who has the gift of pastor/evangelist nor does the individual try to force the gift upon themselves. It is developed and revealed by God the Holy Spirit in His timing. The 11 Apostles attempted to replace Judas (Act 1:23-26), yet this doctrinal man Matthias would not be God’s choice.\

Matthias was a perfect replacement and a good doctrinal Bel who probably would have made a great Apostle yet God did not choose him for that role.

God’s choice was their enemy Saul of Tarsus…he later became known as the Apostle Paul.

/Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Isa 55:8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.\

Turn to the book of Titus as we close.

We will look at what the important traits are in a pastor.

Paul taught Timothy that men who want to be church leaders such as pastors or even deacons should not teach doctrines opposite of scripture in any form.

/1Tim 1:3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men **not to teach strange doctrines**, 4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than *furthering* the administration of God which is by faith.\

Paul goes on to teach Timothy-

[1Ti 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/1/5/s_1120005) But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

[1Ti 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ti/1/6/s_1120006) For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,

The pastor or evangelist or even a deacon most not get involved in hear-say nonsense and speculation concerning leading the church.

It must always circle back around to scripture…BD is the anchor within that church and the leadership has to be focused on the word of God.

Look at how Apostle Paul talks to Titus who as I mentioned before was a force in early Christianity setting up churches and assisting Paul.

Tit 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

Paul left Titus in Crete because the men of Crete were known for combative attitudes and infighting….this was also physical fighting as well as being a very tough area to evangelize in, much less set up a church.

/[Tit 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/tit/1/6/s_1130006) *namely,* if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.\

Contrary to popular teaching this does not mean a pastor or deacon has to be married…this is much more specific about the man becoming a church leader having his life in order.

A man who chases women and is falling in and out of divorce and marriage is completely distracted and they are displaying a life that is undisciplined.

REPEAT!!! ELABORATE

This means church leadership is a task designed for men who have self-discipline and have very few distractions their children and wife must be under his authority.

If he is not married or divorced he should not be occupied with chasing women. If he is divorced it should have taken place either before he was born again…or, under strict doctrinal circumstances.

/[Tit 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/tit/1/7/s_1130007) For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,\

This all points to church leadership as a very serious search among the congregation of men who have proven lifestyles and attitudes that reflect BD.

Men who have engaged in gossip and infighting or are involved in clicks at the church all fall short of becoming leaders in a church. A man who does not respect or obey authority is never a good choice as well. Look what some of the qualities are;

/[Tit 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/tit/1/8/s_1130008) but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 9 **holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching,** so that he will be able both to exhort in **sound doctrine** and to refute those who contradict\.

SOUND DOCTRINE ELABORATE

[Tit 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/tit/1/10/s_1130010) For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

[Tit 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/tit/1/11/s_1130011) who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain.

Sordid gain (ICE-HUSS) this is a term meaning useless having no honor and if you get into the root word it means disfigured, that would mean having something that had honor or truth but now it is manipulated and disfigured.

Think about our condition today within Christian TV and radio.

Huge ministries full of fluff who use one or two scriptures often times taken out of context and teach a whole message revolving around cute stories and feel good catch phrases.

I’ll close with these next principles because I think you can see the nonsense and all the wealthy ministries out there doing exactly what I just said.

/The pastor is never to sway from truth to please the congregation. The pastor is to tear into scripture to clarify, edify and reprove. You should not feel warm and fuzzy every message nor is it his mission to condemn you with his teaching.\

It will vary concerning where the HS leads his studies.

/A pastor/evangelist is not a cookie cut out that fits your preference. In fact, more often than not God uses the least to confound the wise (1Cor 1:26-27). Pastor, Evangelist or Deacon no man is expected to be perfect therefore all types of personalities can fit the calling.\

Do not put unrealistic expectations on your church leaders, just like you don’t do that with family & friends.

/The church leaders past (before salvation) carries very little weight in his current position. Pastors and Deacons are designed in God’s plan to be (Bels) men who understand Bible Doctrine, have a gift for the calling (1Cor 12:28) as well as a heart for service and a strong desire for truth.\

Paul was attacking and murdering Christians before he was called to become an Apostle so the past before salvation is not very important.

The church leadership such as Pastors and Deacons is a role designed by God for men.

/The personality of a church leader plays no important role in his ability to carry out his duty. For the Pastor it is always study and teach with an exhausting effort to maintain integrity of God’s word…political and personal agendas should never cloud the message. Sweetness, gentleness and time spent in the community are not the pastor’s concerns.\

If a man understands the chain of command and respects authority his personality doesn’t matter that much.

Let that sink in.

2Tim 2:15 be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.