

PREPARING THE WAY

MATTHEW 11:11-19

Whatsoever is good for God's children they shall have it, for all is theirs to further them to heaven; therefore, if poverty be good, they shall have it; if disgrace be good, they shall have it; if crosses be good, they shall have them; if misery be good, they shall have it; for all is ours, to serve for our greatest good.

-Richard Sibbes

I. The Unsurpassable Greatness

II. The Unsatisfied Generation

Getting to Know You:

1. If you set an empty place at the dinner table for Thanksgiving, who would you want as an unexpected guest.?

Into the Bible:

2. A Jewish tradition during the Passover is to set a place and pour a cup of wine in hopes that the prophet Elijah might show up. How does this tradition connect with Jesus statement in verse 14 and the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6? What would the arrival of Elijah signal to the Jews?

3. In Matthew 3:2 John's message is "The kingdom of heaven is a hand." Jesus echoes that several times in the Gospels. Why are those who are in the kingdom of heaven greater even than John (v.11)?

Application:

4. We have a saying that “Actions speak louder than words.” Verse 19 offers a similar sentiment as does James 2:14-17. Why is it so important to act on what we believe?

5. In the latter part of the passage Jesus describes many among those who went out to hear John the Baptist as well as many who were following Jesus himself as unsatisfied by the messages each one gave them. What is the challenge laid on us as an audience in 2021 by Christ’s admonition “Let him who has ears to hear, let him hear”? How do we respond when Scripture does not mesh well with our desires in life?

For Families:

6. Talk with your children about the importance of matching our words with our actions.