

Sermon Outline

“Redemption is Near”

Matthew 11:7-15

I. Overview of the subsection – Matthew 11:1-30

A The redemptive deeds of Jesus convey the message vv. 1-6

B The wisdom of receiving the message vv. 7-15

A¹ The message-deeds of Jesus and John compared vv. 16-19

(Each element of the first chiasm leads with questions.)

A The punishment of those who unwisely reject Jesus’ work vv. 20-24

B The wisdom of God’s revelation through Jesus vv. 25-27

A¹ The rest by those who wisely accept Jesus’ work vv. 28-30

II. Transition v. 1

A new narrative section of Matthew’s gospel is introduced.

Delimited by the “end of saying”

See Mt 7:28; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1.

Further healings in the next two sections anticipated by 11:5

See Mt 12:9ff (*cf.* 9:35); 15:29ff

III. The purpose of John’s question

John is assuring the continuity of ministry – preparing his men to follow Jesus.

See Mt 3:1-3, 11-12. *cf.* Jn 1:7-8, 15, 26-27; 3:27-30.

But see Mt 3:13-17; Jn 1:35-37.

IV. The coming of redemption vv. 4-6

The first question: “Are you the one?” vv. 2-3

John is seeking confirmation to complete the transition of ministry.

(Note the use of “Christ” in v. 2.)

The first answer: “Consider the deeds.” vv. 4-5

Tell John what you “hear and see.” *cf.* Is 29:18

Blind see Is 29:18b; 35:5 (*cf.* Is 61:1 LXX)

Lame walk Is 35:6

Lepers are cleansed II Kg 5:14

Deaf hear Is 29:18a; 35:5

Dead are raised Is 26:19

Poor hear good news *cf.* Is 61:1; 29:19 LXX

The beatitude: “Blessed are those who recognize me.” v. 6

Mt 5:11-12 (*cf.* Is 51:7); 10:39-41. *See* John 1:10-12.