

**Sermon Outline**  
“The Wise Receive the Message”  
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

**A<sup>1</sup>** 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

**A<sup>1</sup>** The rest by those who wisely accept Jesus’ work vv. 28-30

**II.** The question of Jesus (*contra* John’s question) vv. 7-9

Did you come to see a reed? *No*.

Did you come to see a rich, cultured man? *No*.

Did you come to see a prophet? *Yes*.

Not just *any* prophet – this one announces the new King, gives the final call.

**III.** The testimony of the Law and the Prophets vv. 10-13

Quote from Ex 23:20

Allusion to Mal 3:1 (*cf.* Mt 3:3 quote from Is 40:3)

v. 12 John is the first to suffer violence against the coming King (*cf.* 17:12)

v. 13 Revelation turns a corner with John; he is the climax of prophecy  
*cf.* Lk 24:44

**IV.** The wise receive the message vv. 14-15

“If you will receive it” **John is Elijah** (*cf.* Mal 4:5-6; Mt 17:10-13)

There are always those who hear but do not receive the message.

The warnings of Eze 12:2 and Jer 5:20-24 are called to mind:

The rebellious against God do not hear.

The formula in Matthew 13:9 (closing the parable of the soil *cf.* v. 43)

*See* Jn 1:12.

Pr 8:1-11 The call to attend wisdom (Hear Jesus!)