

Matthew #5 – “The Seen and the Unseen War”

Memory Verse - Hand out Scriptures to read

Matthew 11:12 (NKJV) *From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”.*

Matthew 11:11-12

Matthew 11:11–12 (NKJV) *“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”*

Luke 1:76 (NKJV) *“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,*

Greatest Prophet? Never wrote a book or did a miracle...?

He was greater than any prophet from the beginning of the world till that time Because;

1st. He was prophesied of by them, **Isa 40:3**, and **Mal 3:1**, where Jesus Christ himself seems to be the speaker.

2ndly. Because he had the privilege of showing the fulfillment of their predictions, by pointing out that Christ has now come, which they foretold should come.

3dly. Because he saw and enjoyed that salvation which they could only foretell. And he suffered a martyr’s death.

The kingdom of heaven suffers violence...

That is, from the time that John had fulfilled his ministry, men rush into my kingdom with a violence like that of those who are taking a city by storm. – John Wesley

Luke 16:16 *The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.*

Like the violence of an army taking a city by storm, or of a crowd bursting into a house, so the *violent take it by force.*

***Luke 13:24** *Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*

Matthew 16:18 *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

Matthew 3:5–6 (NKJV) *Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶ and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.*

Matthew 21:26 (NKJV) *But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.”*

John 12:19 (NKJV) *The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!” [Jesus]*

Luke 7:28–29 (NKJV) *For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹ And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.*

Matthew 21:31, 32 *Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.*

God has given us in the Scriptures sufficient evidence of their divine character, and we are not to doubt His word because we cannot understand all the mysteries of His providence.”—SC, pp. 107.

The Frontiers of Darkness

Colossians 1:12–14 (NKJV) *giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

Acts 26:17–18 (NKJV) *I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’*

Meek is not weak

Matthew 10:34 (NKJV) *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV) *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

***Genesis 32:24** (NKJV) *Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.*

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV) *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

The “Warfare Worldview”

Matthew 12:25–29 (NKJV) *But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?*

²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

Isaiah 27:1 (NKJV) *In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, Will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; And He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.*

***1 John 5:19** (NKJV) *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

Romans 16:20 (NKJV) *And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.*

Genesis 3:14–15 (NKJV) *So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*

Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV) *in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,*

When the Battle Gets Nasty

Matthew 11:2–3 (NKJV) *And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”*

Matthew 3:16 *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.*

Matthew 3:17 (NKJV) *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

Revelation 12:12 (NKJV) *Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”*

Revelation 12:17 (NKJV) *And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 10:34–36 (NKJV) *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; ³⁶ and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’*

A Lost Cause

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NKJV) *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

***Revelation 20:10** *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Matthew 8:29 (NKJV) *And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”*

1 Corinthians 15:20–24 (NKJV) *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.*