

John the Great
Matthew 11:2-19, 14:3-12

Introduction: Who is the greatest?

1. John's doubt, Jesus' remedy (2-6)

John is the forerunner of suffering and hostility

Matthew 14:3-5 – John in prison

John's doubt (2-3)

saints of God *do* doubt when suffering

Jesus' remedy for doubt (4-6)

look to Jesus – His word and His deeds

Jesus blesses those whose doubt does not cause them to fall away

2. Jesus' testimony about John (7-15)

He is a prophet's prophet (7-10)

He is the greatest (11a)

He is Elijah (13-15)

Yet ... the least in the kingdom is greater than he (11b)

high ecclesiology

high Christology

the supremacy of the New Covenant (2 Cor 3:8-11)

Yet even so ... we are still in a battle in this age (12)

Matthew 14:6-12 – Violence against John

We live in a culture that would do violence to our faith

3. Jesus and John confront a childish culture

Don't be a child – repent and believe the Gospel