

HEEDING WHOLLY*Matthew 11:7 – 15, 20 - 24***Devotional Reading: Matthew 10:31 - 42****Background Scripture: Matthew 11****LESSON AIMS:** the students will:

- **SUMMARIZE** Jesus' description of John the Baptist
- **EXPLAIN** why the generation that Jesus criticized displayed a lack of wisdom in its evaluation of both Him and the John the Baptist
- **RECRUIT** an accountability partner to ensure that hearing results in heeding

INTRODUCTION: John the Baptist, son of Zechariah, had devoted his life to the call that God had placed on him. Now in prison because he refused to compromise the truth, even when the king was guilty, sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He were the One who is to come. Jesus' response is a testimony of His ministry. Jesus then spoke to the crowd about John: John's purpose according to the will of God, his work, his submission to God - - even if it would cost his life.

KEY VERSE: ²⁰ *Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Matthew 11:20 / KJV*

LESSON:

John, the Messenger

Matthew 11:7 - 15

Summary: Generations have come and gone since Jesus came, lived a sinless life, died, and ascended. His life and death were prophesied hundreds of years before He came to earth. John did not waiver in his testimony. How can mankind continue to live in disbelief of the truth? John stood up against immorality and was imprisoned. John stood up for Jesus. Jesus stood up for John. What is important enough for you to take stand? Is the kingdom of Heaven worth it? Is the kingdom’s way of love, peace, joy, hope, forgiveness, and salvation worth standing up for?

Questions:

1. *What distinctive actions will you take to demonstrate faithfulness to God, even if they conflict with cultural expectations?*
2. *What can you do to ensure that you do not become “hard of hearing” in a spiritual sense?*
3. *What concept or teaching in today’s lesson do you have the most trouble coming to grips with? Why?*

HEEDING WHOLLY
Matthew 11:7 – 15, 20 - 24

DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
<i>Mon., Feb. 3rd</i>	Be Strong and Courageous	Joshua 1:1 – 9
<i>Tue., Feb. 4th</i>	As Sheep Among Wolves	Matthew 10:16 – 31
<i>Wed., Feb. 5th</i>	Resistance and Reward	Matthew 10:32 – 42
<i>Thurs., Feb. 6th</i>	God Is Our Salvation	Psalm 35:1 – 14
<i>Fri., Feb. 7th</i>	Rescue Me from My Enemies	Psalm 35:15 – 28
<i>Sat., Feb. 8th</i>	Don’t Rejoice When Enemies Fall	Proverbs 24:8 – 22
<i>Sun., Feb. 9th</i>	The Kingdom Presses On	Matthew 11:7 – 15, 20 - 24