

Violence and the Kingdom of God

(Matthew 11:12; Luke 16:16)

Navigating the Hard Sayings

1. Be Open to Your Traditions, Preconceptions, and Prejudices Being Challenged.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit for Understanding.
3. Relentlessly Search and Dig for Kingdom Truth and the Knowledge of God.
4. Learn About Differences Linguistically and Culturally That Affect Your Understanding.
5. Humble Yourself and Allow Jesus' Words Supremacy in Your Life.

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has been treated violently, and violent men take it by force.

Luke 16:16

"The Law and the Prophets *were proclaimed* until John *came*; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

- **Matthew and Luke have different versions of the same original saying.**
- **We need to try to understand:**
 - What each version meant in the context the writer placed it
 - What they mean in the context of Jesus' ministry
 - How that truth translates universally

Matthew's Context (Matthew 11:1-24)

- **John the Baptist Imprisoned (11:1-15)**
 - John's faith struggle considering his circumstances
 - Soon to be beheaded
- **Sinful Generation (11:16-19)**
 - Selfish
 - Faultfinding with the Kingdom Messengers
 - Resistant to the Truth of the Kingdom
 - *"Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds"*
- **Unrepenting Cities (11:20-24)**
 - Unwilling to Receive the Kingdom

"Has been treated violently"

"Violent men take it by force"

Luke's Context (Luke 16:1-31)

- **Double Minded Attempts of Religious People to Serve God and Money (16:1-18)**
 - Jesus' Rebuke (16:15-18)
 - False Aims Called Out
 - God's Truth Will Reveal
- **The End of Life Will Reveal Who's Who (16:19-31)**
 - The Rich Man and Lazarus
 - Even Someone Risen From the Dead Will Not Convince This Generation of Kingdom Truth (16:27-31)

"Everyone is forcing his way into it"

Final Takeaways

1.

2.

3.