

Desperate Disciples

(Matthew 11:11-13)

- Introduction:
1. Several years ago, I did a sermon series on “Lies Told in Church.”
 2. One of those lies was that “It’s easy to be a Christian.”
 3. That’s just not true.
 4. If it’s easy, you’re not doing it right.
 5. This morning’s lesson is not meant to be a discouragement, but rather a call for personal re-evaluation.

I. Entered by Violence

- A. (Matthew 11:11-13).
1. This is a passage many will misunderstand.
 2. It is not discussing the violence of persecution, but the violence in the way disciples were entering the kingdom.
 3. They were “seizing it,” “winning it as a prize of war.”
 4. Ills. Bud’s; food distribution in poor nation; evacuating a war-zone.
- B. (Luke 16:16).
1. This is a parallel passage that helps us to understand what is meant by “violence.
 2. The idea of people pressing against a doorway to get inside.
- C. (Luke 13:24).
1. Strive – Greek word from which we get the word, “agonize.”
 2. It means to fight, compete, labor fervently.

II. Maintained by Vigilance

- A. This is why it is not easy; it matters how we live.
- B. (Matthew 10:34-38) self-denial is hard.
- C. (1 John 2:16) Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- D. (Romans 6:16-23).

- Conclusion:
1. Our life in the kingdom should look similar to our entrance in kingdom.
 2. We must maintain our zeal and commitment to serve the Lord with all we have.
 3. Nominal Christianity won’t cut it; Jesus told us so (Revelation 3:16).