*Wednesday, January 4, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

Matthew 11:11-12 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that 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 suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. (KJV)

When looking at these verses we see words like violence, which refers to energetic. The word force means to seize control of. Now we know when looking at the Old Testament we see where many battles were fought in the carnal realm, however now it is time for the Church to grab hold and seize the opportunity that the Lord has given them in the realm of the Spirit.

Matthew 11:12

[And from the days of John ...] That is, from the days when John began to preach. It is not known how long this was, but it was not probably more than a year. Our Saviour here simply states a fact. He says there was a great rush or a crowd pressing to hear John. Multitudes went out to hear him, as if they were about to take the kingdom of heaven by force. See <Matt. 3:5>. So, he says, it has continued. Since "the kingdom of heaven," or "the gospel," has been preached, there has been a "rush" to it. People have been "earnest" about it; they have come "pressing" to obtain the blessing, as if they would take it by violence. There is allusion here to the manner in which cities were taken. Besiegers "pressed" upon them with violence and demolished the walls. With such "earnestness" and "violence," he says, people had pressed around him and John since they began to preach. There is no allusion here to the manner in which individual sinners seek salvation, but it is a simple record of the fact that multitudes had thronged around him and John to hear the gospel. (from Barnes' Notes)

What a fervent zeal that was being displayed by the people to hear some truth. Today it doesn’t seem the same anymore, it’s kind of like watching a parent trying to feed a child vegetables and watching the child make faces and push it away.

Matthew 11:12

[The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence] The tax-gatherers and pagans, whom the scribes and Pharisees think have no right to the kingdom of the Messiah, filled with holy zeal and earnestness, seize at once on the proffered mercy of the Gospel, and so take the kingdom as by force from those learned doctors who claimed for themselves the chiefest places in that kingdom. Christ himself said, The tax-gatherers and harlots go before you into the kingdom of God. See the parallel place, <Luke 7:28-30>. He that will take, get possession of the kingdom of righteousness, peace, and spiritual joy, must be in earnest: all hell will oppose him in every step he takes; and if a man be not absolutely determined in give up his sins and evil companions, and have his soul saved at all hazards, and at every expense, he will surely perish everlastingly. This requires a violent earnestness. (from Adam Clarke Commentary)

Luke 5:19-20 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. (20) And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. (KJV)

What would you do to hear some truth today; would you do whatever it takes to get through to the Lord? Before you go through the roof and get frustrated, how about getting up from your bed fist thing in the day and give our Lord some quality time instead of just the leftovers.

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. (KJV)

Strive here again refers to fight or contend; which Church, does not mean to wrestle with flesh and blood, rather knowing that the opponent of our Lord would like nothing better than to see God’s people back in that fallen realm, knocked spiritually unconscious.