

# TAKE IT BY FORCE

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

## MT. 11:11-12 HCSB, NIV

Not all phrases are easily translated from one language to another. Even commentators offer different explanations of what Jesus meant.

- **HCSB** – The violent have been seizing it by force. To seize means to take hold of forcibly.
- **NIV** – Violent people have been raiding it or coming against it.

**MT. 11:12 ESV** – Most English translations follow “the violent take it by force”. **NASB** in footnotes adds “is forcibly entered” and “seize it for themselves”. To seize means to take hold of by exerting energy.

## John The Baptist

It’s hard to imagine that Jesus considered John the Baptist being greater than Abraham, Moses, Enoch, Noah, Joshua, Caleb and so on. What’s even more difficult to understand is Him considering all of us being greater than John the Baptist. What makes us greater than John? Why would Jesus make this comparison?

## MT. 11:1-3; 13:16-17

John was a prophet like the others who didn’t experience the new birth or Pentecost. We who are saved, are experiencing what, for John, were still future realities. We who know the story of the Cross and finished work of Christ possess realities which the patriarchs and prophets never enjoyed. It’s by these revelations, we advance God’s kingdom and take by force that which Jesus obtained for us by His sacrifice.