



MATTHEW Chap. XI. Verſe 5.

*And the Poor have the Goſpel preached
unto them.*



ST. *John* is represented in the Goſpel, as the Meſſenger and Fore-runner of our Bleſſed Saviour, ſent to give notice to the *Jews*, and prepare them for the Reception of that extraordinary Perſon, who had for a long Time been expected, and at that particular Time was ſo, with more than ordinary Attention, under the Character of the *Meſſiah*.

St. *John* was a Man of great Austerity of Life, and the Purport of his Doctrine was *Repentance*; the neceſſity of which, he inculcated from the Argument of the near approaching of *Chriſt's* Kingdom, whoſe Foundation was to be laid in Holineſs and Integrity of Life. By the freedom of his rebukes at the Court and upon the Perſon of *Herod*, he had drawn upon himſelf