

A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 11 v. 20-30

Woe to the Impenitent Cities

- **“Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.” (v. 20)**
 - These cities had seen “mighty works.”
 - They had seen such tremendous displays of power that should have brought about their repentance. But they did not.
 - They saw those miracles but still did not believe that they were true miracles, or in the one performing them.
 - Why is there no repentance?
 - Are people like this today?

- **“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” (v. 21)**
 - What is a woe?
 - a warning.
 - Watch out, Chorazin and Bethsaida!
 - Tyre and Sidon are Phoenician cities
 - In **Acts 21:3 and 27:3**, we learn that Tyre and Sidon readily received the gospel.
 - So history proves what Jesus said about those cities. They were happy to receive the gospel.
 - Chorazin and Bethsaida are Jewish cities.
 - The people in Chorazin and Bethsaida had witnessed the same miracles but they are not willing to repent.
 - He rebukes them to think seriously about what they are doing and what is happening around them.
 - How would this statement affect the Jewish audience?

- **“But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.” (v. 22-23)**
 - Capernaum was the most favored of cities because Jesus made it His home (**Mt 4:13**).
 - But they are not going to be exalted in the eyes of God. Instead they shall descend to Hades. Hades is destruction, desolation, death.
 - Jesus makes a comparison with Sodom. What do we know about Sodom?
 - Jesus condemns these three cities Why?

- **“Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the Day of Judgment, than for you.” (v. 24)**
 - This is talking about the eternal judgment. Sodom was destroyed about 1900 B.C. (**Genesis 18 and 19**).
 - All of the condemned cities here, Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum are cities that were destroyed in the next 30 years, and today they are ruins.
 - **Luke 12:47-48**
 - **2 Peter 2:21**
 - **2 Thessalonians 1:6-9**

Jesus Gives True Rest

- **“At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. “ (v. 25)**
 - Who are the “Babes” referred to here?
 - Who are the “Wise and prudent” referred to here?
 - He has already said in **verse 15** he who has ears to hear let him hear, and will say it again in **13:14,15**.
 - He quotes from **Isaiah 6:9,10** - “Keep on listening, but do not perceive.”
 - God has given every one the opportunity to hear and believe, but they do not because of their own wisdom and intelligence.
- **“Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.” (v. 26)**
 - What does this statement mean?
- **“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” (v. 27)**
 - God made certain Jesus was fully equipped with all things necessary to fulfill His mission to do the job and God made sure that He was fully equipped.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
 - With God’s word you do not lack anything to accomplish the will of God.
 - **“Except the Father.”**
 - The Father is the One who perfectly knows who the Son is.
 - **“Except the Son.”**
 - The Son is the one who perfectly knows who the Father is.
 - **John 1:18**
 - **John 14:9**

- We cannot come to know the Father unless Jesus reveals Him to us.
 - **John 1:18**
 - Since we have not seen Him, we cannot know Him. But we can know what has been revealed since Jesus came to reveal the Father.
 - Is this different from the way the Jews saw God (as the Father)?
 - “The Jews do not have a concept of God as the Father. They do not know Him.”

- **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (v. 28)**
 - The yoke the Pharisees laid upon the people - traditions of the elders, and the ceremonial laws - was something impossible for them to bear
 - **Matthew 23:2-4**
 - “I will give you rest.”
 - What is Jesus offering rest from?
 - If only they would come to Him, and learn His ways, they could be freed from that burdensome yoke.

- **“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (v. 29)**
 - Jesus offers to remove one yoke only to replace it with another.
 - What yoke is Jesus replacing?
 - However, His yoke is easy to carry compared to the heavy yoke the people were forced to bear.
 - **“Gentle and humble in heart.”**
 - Jesus is gentle and humble in heart; in perfect submission to God’s will.
 - Is it easier to learn from a humble person or a proud person?
 - Some translations use the word “meek” in this verse.
 - “freedom from pretension , gentleness, and patient endurance of injury—where it is proper to endure.”
 - **“Rest.”**
 - They could not do everything the Pharisees were binding on them to do.
 - **Acts 15:10.**

- **“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (v.30)**
 - **“Easy.”**
 - What does Jesus mean by “easy?”
 - **1 John 5:3**
 - How does this relate to Matt **7:13**?
 - Must we wear His yoke to find rest?
 - **Phil 4:7; 1 Pet 1:8; 1 John 5:3**