

Matthew Lesson 11 b

The Gospel According to Matthew -- Chapter 11: 20 - 30

Historical background – In the first part of Chapter 11, Jesus responds to a question sent to Him through John the Baptist’s disciples, “Are you the coming One?” John was probably in a terrible prison situation and was not being rescued. He had heard things about Jesus that did not seem to harmonize with he had taught. Jesus responded with words of kindness and grace.

Vocabulary

- denounce
- miracles performed
- “Woe to you. . . .”
- Hades
- Repent in sack cloth and ashes
- bearable
- weary and burdened
- yoke
- souls

Questions about Chapter 11

- What does Jesus have to say to Chorazin and Bethsaida? (v. 20, 21) What did Jesus say about Tyre and Sidon? (v. 21 -22)
- What did Jesus say to Capernaum? (v. 23-24) The 2 cities were very near Jesus’ home area in Capernaum. Why did Jesus speak such hard words to these three cities? (v. 23 – 24)
- In the rest of Chapter 11, Jesus the Savior gives a tender invitation. Luke 10:17, gives us a background for when Jesus spoke these words. Who was Jesus speaking to in vs. 25 & 26? Why?
- In verses 27, what is Jesus talking about? What does this verse tell us about Jesus?
- Verse 28 says, “Come to me...”. What comfort and encouragement can we gain from this verse? What promises? Is this verse relevant to us today? How?

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In the second section (verses 20 – 24) Jesus denounced the cities in which most of his mighty works had been performed, because they had not repented. Lesson: judgment will not be easy on privileged impenitents.

In the third section (verses 25 – 30) withering denunciation is replaced by a tender invitation. The return of missionaries with an enthusiastic report is for Jesus the occasion for the utterance of a stirring thanksgiving. He concludes with the tender invitation, “Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest....”

Copied from pg. 507 on Matthew 11. New Testament Commentary – Exposition of the Gospel According to Matthew; William Hendriksen; Baker Book House; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 1984.