

Matthew Chapter 11

Matthew 11:1

And it came to pass when Jesus had made an end of commanding his disciples, he departed thence to teach and preach in their cities.

After Jesus had given the commandment to His disciples in what they should do, He began to teach and preach in the cities.

Preaching differs from teaching. Preaching exhorts and warns individuals of the love and wrath of God. Whereas teaching assists us in how to apply the word of God to our daily life as well as how to receive the promises of God.

Matthew 11:2

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples.

Although God had informed John that Jesus was His Son (Matthew 3:16-17) due to John's confinement and because Jesus was near he wondered whether or not this was the Messiah. Why hadn't He come and released him from prison, all kinds of thoughts most likely were going through John's mind. John saw the Spirit of God descending on Jesus. John heard the voice of God speak directly to him about His



Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Son. In John's despair, he forgot about what he had seen and heard, all he could possibly think on "I'm in prison, and I need deliverance". If He's the Son of God why haven't He come to my rescue?" When fear comes upon us, it will torment to the point, we lose sight of what we really know about God. We will begin to talk to others about our problem and before we know it, we have received counsel from everyone except God, then the spirit of doubt and unbelief will come and make us double-minded.

Matthew 11:3

And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Sometimes we act like John, if Jesus hasn't come to our rescue when we thought He should, we sometimes look for something or someone to deliver us from what we're going through. We sometimes look for another by comforting ourselves with someone that isn't our spouse. We may turn to drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes to appease ourselves for the moment. There is nothing that Jesus can't deliver us

we place our trust in Him. If we let patience have its perfect work in us, fear and doubt will not rule and our waiting will establish loyalty and commitment to God.

Matthew 11:4

Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which you do hear and see:

Jesus answered John's question by pointing to His acts of healing the blind, lame, and deaf, curing different types of sickness and diseases. John had to be reassured that Jesus was the coming Messiah. Sometimes we go through difficult trials and although we have seen Jesus deliver us in many situations, doubt arises and our faith needs to be reassured. Whatever you may be going through remember how God delivered you, He did it then, He can do it again, what is impossible with man is possible with God. Place your dilemma in the hands of Jesus.

Matthew Chapter 11

Matthew 11:5

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the leper are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Jesus was reminding John of the manifestation of God's power working through Him to bring life and healing. Jesus was raising the physical dead as well as the spiritual dead.

Matthew 11:6

And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

When we accept Jesus we are blessed. Offense comes when people don't want to except the word of God. The Pharisees were offended when Jesus said He was the Son of God although they knew from the Old Testament that Jesus was to be born, when they met Him, they didn't except Him. Everyone is not going to except Jesus and it's not our duty to throw it on them. All we suppose to do is present it to them, they have the choice to either choose or reject it.

Matthew 11:7

And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John. What went you out to the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

The question arise, did you go to the wilderness for conscience or curiosity, did you go to receive knowledge of salvation or did you go to criticize? Too many times people attend church for all the wrong reasons. We shouldn't attend church to be seen or heard. Neither should we attend church just to say we went to church. Every time we go, if we go with the right motivation, God will meet us there to bring

salvation, revelation, healing, and encouragement. Whatever the need might be, God will supply the need.

Matthew 11:9

But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

John was a messenger sent by God to prepare the way for Christ's coming. Jesus saw him more than a prophet. There was none that could be compared to John's faith, and loyalty.

Matthew 11:10

For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

John was a messenger sent on a great errand. John went into his ministry with a dress attire of woven camel's hair and his food was locusts and wild honey, a diet that most of us wouldn't eat. He preached in the wilderness repentance to all that would hear him.

Matthew 11:11

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women, there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: not withstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

No man has fulfilled his God-given purpose better than John. Jesus said there was none born of woman that was greater than John. Jesus placed John before all the prophets including Moses. Jesus knew how to value a person according to the degrees of their worth, and he preferred John before all that went before him.

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom

of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent taketh it by force.

Through John's teaching and preaching repentance it influenced many to repent and accept Jesus as their Lord. John didn't sugar coat it, either they were going to go to heaven or hell, there were no in-betweens. He called the people what they were and didn't care about what people thought or said about him. Violence taketh by force could indicate God's kingdom takes courage, unwavering faith, determination, and endurance because of the growing oppositions. In order to walk in the spirit, the individual has to be persistent in following God's instructions. We have to take back what is ours by force, by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. We cannot play with Satan, we cannot be soft spoken and be passive.

Matthew 11:13

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

Before John's birth the scriptures were speaking about John as the messenger of God. The scripture acknowledges the present before its time, the birth of John as well as the birth of Jesus. That's why the Pharisees and Sadducees knew about the birth of Jesus, but because of their harden hearts, they couldn't accept Jesus as the Son of God.

Matthew 11:14

And if ye will receive it, this is Elijah, which was for to come.

John was the circle that coupled the two Testaments, the concluding prophecy of the Old Testament. John came in the spirit and power of Elijah, telling the people to repent of their sins. Explaining what salvation was. In order for a person to come to repentance, they must understand the love God has for them, the Grace

He has given through Jesus. When people really understand God's love, they will repent on their own from the heart and not just speaking it with their mouth.

Matthew 11:15

He that has an ear to hear, let him hear.

Jesus wasn't speaking about the two organs of hearing and equilibrium, He was talking about hearing with our heart and spirit. Once we hear, we must accept what we hear as the word of God and not try to add or take from what God is saying.

Matthew 11:16

But whereto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets and calling unto their fellows.

Jesus condemned the attitude of His generation, No matter what He said or did, they took the opposite view. They were cynical and skeptical because He challenged their comfortable, secure, self-centered lives. Today, people oppose the teaching of Jesus, because they considered it to be too strict, they will follow the teaching of the world rather than the teaching of the scriptures.

Matthew 11:17

And saying, we have piped (played the flute) unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and you have not lamented.

They made excuses why they rejected John and Jesus, they were like children, they didn't know what game to play so they decided to play nothing. People are like children today, if they can't serve God the way they desire, they will reject Him altogether. Either we're going to serve Him according to His instructions or we will serve Satan, we will serve one or the other.

Matthew 11:18

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.

John's lifestyle reflected his dedication to God. He didn't drink and he fasted often, but they said he had a demon. Whereas the priest were drinking, they didn't teach about repentance, but they were accepted as men of God. They were calling wrong right and right wrong fulfilling the Old Testament scripture.

Matthew 11:19

The Son of man came eating and drinking and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber (drinker), a friend of publicans (tax collectors) and sinners. But wisdom is known of her children.

Jesus' love towards sinners brought liberty to those that were around Him, as they listen to His teaching, observed His character they knew that Jesus wasn't what people was saying about Him. We as born-again Christians should live such a life style that when we're around people we don't have to have a sign saying we're saved, but our presence will indicate that we're children of God. When people lie on us, those that have been around us will know that's it a lie without us having to defend ourselves. Whatever is in us will surface when the right botton is pushed.

Matthew 11:20

Then began he to upbraid (rebuke) the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

Though they had seen the manifestation of the power of God through Jesus healing the blind those that were bound by infirmities, delivering those that were possessed by demons, turning

water into wine, yet they would not repent of their sins. They saw Jesus first hand, and would not accept His teaching. People are the same way today, some have seen as well as heard how God delivers and heals, but they will not submit themselves to God.

Matthew 11:21

Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, 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.

Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom were ancient cities with a reputation for wickedness. Each were destroyed because of their wickedness, but if they had seen the manifestation of God's power as Chorazin and Bethsaida they would have repented. Religious people think they have already made it to heaven, they feel as though they don't need to repent, but because we are spirits in a body of flesh we need to repent daily. Daily we should search ourselves and see whether or not we're lining up with the word of God and if not, repent and get in line with the word.

Matthew 11:22

But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

Tyre and Sidon would be better off in the judgment than Chorazin and Bethsaida, they knew nothing about repentance whereas these religious people supposed to have known the teachings of God. They had seen the Son of God whereas Chorazin and Bethsaida hadn't. When we read or have been taught the word of God and reject His teaching God holds us liable, and the judgment will be severe because we knew better.

Matthew 11:23

And thou, Capernaum, which are exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Capernaum saw Jesus first hand, and yet they stubbornly refused to repent of their sins and believe in Him. Too many times we want to justify our sin, when there is no justification by God's law.

Matthew 11:24

But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Jesus is informing the religious people that they will be worst off than those of Sodom, because they didn't have the preaching and teaching of the word of God, they didn't see the miracles. This also seems to represent that it maybe degrees or levels of punishment. Both had sinned, but one would be worst then the other.

Matthew 11:25

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes.

Two kinds of people are mentioned, the "wise" arrogant in their own knowledge and the "babes" who is humbly open to receive the truth of God's word. Intellectual religion will kill you spiritually, intellect and spirit is like trying to mix oil and water, they don't mix!

Matthew 11:26

Even so, Father: for so it seem good in they sight.

Jesus thanked the Father for hiding the truth from those that were wise in themselves and

revealing it to those that had a child-like heart. In order to receive from God we must believe that He is who He say He is and reward those that diligently seek Him, meaning daily, when things are good and when thing are bad. When we're on the mountain top and when we're down in the valley, we're seeking Him in prayer, praise, reading and studying His word and lining our life with His instructions.

Matthew 11:27

All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any the Father, save (except) the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

In the Old Testament "know" means more than knowledge. It implies intimate relationship. The communion between God the Father and God the Son is the core of their relationship. For anyone to know God, God must reveal himself to that person by the Son's choice. Jesus has revealed to us God, His truth, and how we can know him through His word and communing with Him.

Matthew 11:28

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

A yoke is a heavy wooden harness that fits over the shoulder of an ox. It is attached to a piece of equipment that the ox has to pull. A heavy laden person my be burden with sin, excessive demands of religious leaders, oppression, depression, suppression, weariness in search of God, Jesus will free us from the burden when we seek Him and give the burden to Him. The rest Jesus promises is love, healing, deliverance, and peace with God.

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of (from) me, for I am meek (gentle) and lowly in heart: and

and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Jesus' yoke is not burdensome, He teaches us how to commune with the Father, how to please the Father, giving us knowledge and understanding of God's word. Empowering us to live by the word of God and not our self-centeredness.

Matthew 11:30

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

A relationship with God changes meaningless toil into spiritual productivity and purpose. God never places on us more than we're able to do or carry out. People and we ourselves will expect more out of us than we're capable of doing.

Jesus knows we're human, He knows what we can and cannot do. He does not expect us to do what we cannot do, but He also expect us to do what He has empowered us to do.

God bless you! Be encouraged. Know that you have the victory through Jesus Christ, the Lord of Host.

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