

Matthew 11:20-30

- **REVIEW...**

- o **FIRST** - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
- o **SECOND** – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
- o Lapse of Faith...
 - After Jesus sent out the **TWELVE** to spread the message of the **GOSPEL** [and went with them]
 - **TWO** disciples of John the Baptist - who was in **PRISON** - came asking if Jesus was the Christ...
 - John had been **CERTAIN** Jesus was the **MESSIAH** - but **PRISON** made him **DOUBT**...
 - The **EVIDENCE** - they were to tell John what they had **SEEN** and **HEARD**...
 - The **BLIND** could see - the **LAME** could walk - **LEPERS** were healed - the **DEAD** we raised...
 - All of which were the fulfillment of **PROPHECIES** about the **MESSIAH**!
- o End of the Old Covenant...
 - Jesus then turned to the **CROWD** and asked them - who was John the Baptist...
 - He was more than a **PROPHET** - because he was the one who **PREPARED** the way for the Christ...
 - He was the **LAST** prophet of the Old Testament - Elisha to those who **BELIEVE**...
 - But people did **NOT** listen to John [Old Covenant] - **NOR** did they listen to Jesus [New Covenant]
 - They were like kids playing in the market - who just wanted to be **ENTERTAINED**!

- **1ST – REJECTING SALVATION... vs. 20-24**

- o **1st** - No Repentance... vs. 20
 - Rejecting...
 - Jesus sent out the **TWELVE** into the **HARVEST** - because it was **RIPE** - **Matthew 9:37**
 - But that did **NOT** mean that **EVERYONE** would receive the **GOSPEL**...
 - **MANY** had rejected the message of John the Baptist [thrown into prison]
 - And **MANY** more would reject the **TWELVE** Apostles [kick off the dust] - **Matthew 10:14**
 - Rebuking...
 - [Jesus] **began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done.**
 - **Because they did not repent!**
 - But the ones who had **NO** excuse - were the cities who saw the **POWER** [δύναμις] of Jesus...
 - People who saw the **LAME** walk - the **LEPERS** cleansed - and the **DEAD** raised...
 - They should have been the **FIRST** ones to **REPENT** and turn to the **LORD**!
 - **Many people SAY that if only they could SEE Jesus - SEE miracles - they would believe...**
 - **But those who SAW everything [Jesus and Miracles] still refused to REPENT...**
 - **Because seeing is NOT believing - we must BELIEVE in order to see!**
 - **The desire of God is that EVERYONE goes to HEAVEN - II Peter 3:9**
 - **And ANYONE can be saved - because Jesus died for the SINS of the WHOLE world - John 3:16**
 - **But sadly - NOT everyone is going to be SAVED - there are MANY who will reject the Gospel...**
 - **And even if they see MIRACLES - it will NOT be enough to convince them!**
- o **2nd** - Woe to you... vs. 21-22
 - Ruined... vs. 21
 - **Woe to you - Chorazin! Woe to you - Bethsaida!**
 - Jesus declares **TWO** woes [ὀυαῖ] - strong condemnation...
 - **FIRST** to Chorazin [furnace] - **ONLY** mentioned here and in the parallel account - **Luke 10:13**
 - The ruins of Korazim can be found around **FOUR** no kilometers north of Capernaum...
 - **SECOND** to Bethsaida [house of fish] - a small village very close to Capernaum...
 - It was the home town of Peter - Andrew - and Philip - **John 1:44**
 - Both cities are just a pile of **RUINS** today - no one lives there!

- Mighty power... vs. 21
 - 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!
 - In both places Jesus had shown His POWER [δύναμις] - yet they had NOT repented...
 - Bethsaida was where Jesus fed over FIVE thousand men [plus women and kids] - **Luke 9:10**
 - YET - if those same works had been done in TYRE and SIDON [modern day Lebanon]
 - TWO port cities that were notorious for being very WICKED...
 - Sidon was the home of Jezebel - one of the most wicked women in the Bible - **I Kings 16:31**
 - IF they had seen the POWER of Jesus shown in Chorazin and Bethsaida...
 - They would have REPENTED in sackcloth and ashes [humility] long ago!
 - The Jews assumed they were OK with God because of WHERE they were born...
 - And they assumed those born to PAGAN nations had NO hope!
 - **Matthew 3:9** - "Do not think to say to yourselves: We have Abraham as our father."
- Stricter Judgement... vs. 22
 - I say to you it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you!
 - It will be BETTER [ἀνεκτός] for TYRE and SIDON on the Judgement Day [White Throne]
 - Than for the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida!
 - We might think we are BLESSED to have been born in a CHRISTIAN nation...
 - And we might feel bad for the people who were born in BAD nations [North Korea or Iran]
 - But it is NOT about WHERE we are from - it is about WHERE we are going...
 - Someone who comes to Jesus that lives in IRAN - is far better off eternally...
 - Than someone from the PHILIPPINES - who NEVER repents...
 - Because God does not care about our NATIONALITY - He looks at our HEART!
- o 3rd - Brought down... vs. 23-24
 - To hell... vs. 23
 - You Capernaum - who are exalted to heaven - will be brought down to Hades!
 - CAPERNAUM - was at the heart of the ministry of Jesus [home base]
 - They saw MORE miracles - more of His POWER [δύναμις] - than anyone else...
 - Almost EVERY healing recorded to this point in Matthew - took place in CAPERNAUM...
 - The LEPER - the Centurions SERVANT - the PARALYTIC - and BLIND men...
 - The daughter of JAIRUS - the WOMEN with an issue of blood - the MUTE man...
 - But because they did NOT repent - they would NOT be lifted up [future] to HEAVEN [ΝΥ]
 - Instead they would be brought down [future] to HELL [ᾗδης]!
 - Destroyed... vs. 23
 - If the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom...
 - It would have remained until this day!
 - YET - if those same works had been done in SODOM...
 - SODOM - the very name is synonymous with great EVIL [sodomite]
 - God wiped SODOM [and Gomorrah] off the earth with FIRE and BRIMSTONE - **Genesis 19:24**
 - YET - if SODOM had seen the POWER [δύναμις] of Jesus shown in CAPERNAUM...
 - The city would NOT have been destroyed - they would still be there today!
 - I was asked the other day why the God of the OLD Testament - WRATH and DESTRUCTION...
 - Was so different from the God of the NEW Testament - LOVE and GRACE!
 - The answer is there is NO difference - there is only ONE God...
 - The same God who JUDGED Sodom - also JUDGED Capernaum...
 - He is also the same God who would have FORGIVEN either - had they REPENTED!
 - Stricter Judgement... vs 24

- I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for Sodom in the day of judgment than for you!
- It will be BETTER [ἀνεκτός] for SODOM on the Judgement Day [White Throne]
- Than for CAPERNAUM - that was at the very HEART of the ministry of Jesus!
- **Luke 12:48** - "When someone has been given much - much will be required in return." [NLT]
- I do not believe this means there are LEVELS of punishment...
- There are only TWO destinations - HEAVEN and HELL...
- And nowhere in the Bible does it state there are BETTER or WORSE spots in HELL...
- But I do think the JUDGEMENT will be HARDER for those who KNOW the truth...
- Imagine how terrible it will for those who are told continually about Jesus...
- And see His POWER in the life of those around them - but do NOT repent [Capernaum]
- When they stand before Jesus on JUDGEMENT day - they will have NO excuse!
- **2ND - WHO CAN BE SAVED... vs. 25-30**
 - 1st - Simple Truth... vs. 25-26
 - Hidden from Wise... vs. 25
 - 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!
 - This no doubt brought up a QUESTION in the minds of those listening to Jesus...
 - If the CITIES at the heart of His MINISTRY had refused to REPENT - who would be SAVED...
 - In that very MOMENT [Ἐν ἐκείνῳ τῷ καιρῷ] - Jesus ANSWERED them...
 - AGREEING [ἐξομολογέω] with the FATHER - who is LORD [κύριος] of heaven and earth...
 - That SALVATION has been HIDDEN [ἀποκρύπτω] from the WISE - INTELLIGENT [συνετός]!
 - Now that does NOT mean that it is BAD to be WISE [σοφός] or SMART...
 - It means people who DEPEND on their WISDOM and INTELLIGENCE - get into trouble...
 - People who come up with WISE sounding RELIGIONS - to make themselves FEEL good...
 - Or very EDUCATED people who try and rationalize how God is NOT real!
 - **Romans 1:22** - "Professing to be wise - they became fools."
 - Revealed to kids... vs. 25-26
 - And have revealed them to babes. Even so Father - for so it seemed good in Your sight!
 - Instead God REVEALED [ἀποκαλύπτω] - SALVATION to little children [νήπιος]
 - Because - that is HOW God WANTED to SEE men be SAVED!
 - If I told you I would give you MONEY - if you smiled at me...
 - It means I WANT to give you MONEY - I am NOT making it hard!
 - God WANTS people to go to HEAVEN - He LOVES the whole world - **John 3:16**
 - Therefore - the Gospel message is NOT complicated - in fact it could NOT be simpler...
 - It is so SIMPLE - men have tried to ADD to it to make it more COMPLICATED...
 - They add WORKS - man made requirements - to make people EARN their salvation...
 - To be SAVED one must believe AND: tithe - be baptized [by them] - attend [their] church...
 - But they miss what even little CHILDREN understand - God LOVES us so He made it EASY...
 - Just BELIEVE in Jesus [died on the cross] - confess Him as Lord - and we are saved!
 - **Romans 10:13** - "Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."
 - 2nd - Chosen by God... vs. 27
 - Knowing God... vs. 27
 - All things have been delivered to Me by My Father.
 - No one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son!
 - The FATHER has given all [πᾶς] RESPONSIBILITY to Jesus...
 - That includes the work of SALVATION - who goes to HEAVEN...
 - And the ONLY way to get to HEAVEN is to KNOW the FATHER...
 - KNOW [ἐπιγινώσκω] - to have an ongoing [present] personal RELATIONSHIP with Him...

- But since ONLY the Son really KNOWS the FATHER - and the FATHER the Son...
- Who then can have a RELATIONSHIP with Him - and be SAVED!
- If a STRANGER came to my door and asked to come into my house - I would say NO...
- But if a FRIEND brought a STRANGER over - then he would be welcome!
- Who God Chooses... vs. 27
 - The one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him!
 - Whomever the SON wants to REVEAL [ἀποκαλύπτω] the FATHER to...
 - Therefore - the ONLY people who can be SAVED are the ones Jesus CHOOSES!
 - **I Peter 1:2** - "ELECT according to the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God the Father!"
 - ELECT [ἐκλεκτός] - to be CHOSEN by God...
 - This can be a hard concept for us to comprehend - God CHOOSES those who go to HEAVEN...
 - But when we got [or will get] married - we got to CHOSE who we spent our life with!
 - We want the freedom to CHOOSE who to spend our lives with...
 - It is FAIR that God gets to CHOOSE who He spends eternity with!
 - **John 15:16** - "You did not CHOOSE Me - but I CHOSE you..."
- How God Chooses...
 - While it is TRUE Jesus CHOOSES who gets to go to HEAVEN - it is only HALF the answer...
 - We must also ask - HOW does He make His CHOICE...
 - We are CHOSEN by the FOREKNOWLEDGE [πρόγνωσις] - to KNOW beforehand - of God!
 - **Romans 8:29** - "For whom He FOREKNEW - He also predestined..."
 - **Ephesians 1:4-5** - "He CHOSE us in Him before the foundation of the world..."
 - God is ETERNAL - meaning He has no beginning or end - **Revelation 1:8**
 - It does not mean God has an endless amount of TIME - it means God is outside of TIME...
 - God sees all of TIME - from Genesis to Revelation all at once!
 - **Isaiah 46:10** - "Declaring the end from the beginning."
 - Since God sees EVERYTHING - He knows exactly who will CHOOSE to believe in Jesus...
 - God CHEATS - He knew our CHOICE - before we ever made it...
 - He then CHOSE those who He knew would CHOOSE Him...
 - If we WANT to go to HEAVEN - all we have to do is CHOOSE Jesus...
 - Then we will find He CHOSE us before the world ever began!
- o 3rd - All are Welcome... vs. 28-30
 - The Command... vs. 28
 - Come to Me - all you who labor and are heavy laden - and I will give you rest!
 - Which is why Jesus commands [imperative] EVERYONE [πᾶς] to COME...
 - Those who LABOR [κοπιᾶω] - tired of trying to WORK for their SALVATION...
 - Those who are HEAVY [φόρτος] - cannot carry [perfect] the WEIGHT of all their SIN...
 - And Jesus will give to us REST [ἀναπαύω] - we no longer WORK for our salvation!
 - If I BORROW money - because I cannot afford to pay for my RENT...
 - Even if I pay it every month afterwards - that does not mean I am NOT in debt!
 - The problem with RELIGION - trying to live a GOOD life...
 - Is that being GOOD does nothing to PAY for the BAD things we have done...
 - The ONLY answer to the HEAVY debt of sin that we carry - is to come to Jesus...
 - He can PAY our DEBT - lift our BURDEN - and allow us to have REST...
 - We no longer have to TRY and be GOOD - by GRACE we are FORGIVEN!
 - **Hebrews 4:10** - "All who have entered into Gods rest have rested from their labor."
 - The Promise... vs. 29-30
 - Once we come to Jesus - and He gives FORGIVES us of our SIN...
 - We then need to TAKE [imperative] His YOKE on us....

- YOKE – is meant to connect TWO animals so they can work TOGETHER...
- But it is important they are EQUAL [do not yoke a Caribou to a Goat]
- Yet we are NOT equal to Jesus – which is the POINT...
- His YOKE is easy [χρηστός] – because He does all the WORK for us...
- Making our BURDEN [φόρτος] LIGHT - because He gives us the POWER to live a GODLY life!
- Imagine a little GOAT - struggling in vain to pull a fulling loaded cart...
- The only hope that GOAT has - is to YOKE up with a MUCH stronger CARIBOU!
- Coming to Jesus is NOT just about being FORGIVEN of our SINS...
- It is also about having the POWER to live a GODLY life...
- If we find ourselves constantly FAILING in our Christian walk - falling into SIN...
- The solution is to YOKE up to Jesus - let Him do the WORK for us...
- ONLY in Him do we have the POWER to live a HOLY life for God!
- **Philippians 4:13** - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
- The Purpose... vs. 29-30
 - Learn from Me for I am gentle and lowly in heart... [and] you will find rest for your souls.
 - Finally we must [imperative] LEARN [μανθάνω] - become a DISCIPLE - of Jesus...
 - Which is NOT hard - because He is MEEK and HUMBLE [ταπεινός] hearted...
 - And ONLY then will we FIND our REST – because we will KNOW [ἐπιγινώσκω] Him!
 - Because the KEY to unlock salvation is not RELIGION - it is NOT following RULES...
 - The KEY is RELATIONSHIP - getting to KNOW the God who DIED to save us...
 - Only then will we truly find REST - because true LIFE comes from Jesus!
 - **John 17:3** - “This is eternal life - that they may know You - the only true God - and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”