

THE MESSIAH'S CHALLENGE AND INVITATION

THE MESSIAH'S MISSION [MATTHEW, PART 4] · MATTHEW 11:20-30 · JULY 4, 2021 · PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

SERMON OUTLINE:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

The Messiah's Challenge (11:20-24)

The call to repentance

The reality of judgment

The Messiah's Invitation (11:25-30)

Jesus' prayer of thanks

Jesus' unique relationship with the Father

Jesus' stunning invitation

Responding to the Messiah's Challenge and Invitation

Turning from sin and self

Turning like children to the Father

Turning toward the easy yoke of Jesus

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Answer one of the following:
 - When has someone spoken a hard word into your life you really needed to hear?
 - When has someone brought an encouraging word you really needed to hear?
2. This week we continue our series, "The Messiah's Mission," by looking at Matthew 11:20-30. Begin your study in prayer by asking God to speak to you through His Word. Then, whether you're on your own or with others, read that passage aloud.
3. The first section of this passage is a warning and challenge. It's important to know Chorazin and Bethsaida were predominantly Jewish towns near and of similar size to Capernaum, where Jesus ministered. Tyre and Sidon were Phoenician towns up the coast. Sodom was famously destroyed by God because of its sin (Genesis 19). Considering this background, what do you think Jesus is trying to say through His comparisons in 11:20-24?
4. Jesus mentions repentance several times. How would you define repentance? What does it look like for someone to repent?
5. The second section of this passage begins with a prayer of thanksgiving by Jesus (11:25-26). The "little children" of verse 25 is likely a reference to Jesus' disciples. What is Jesus thankful for here?
6. Verse 27 summarizes the relationship of Jesus to the Father. What would you say is at the heart of this verse?
7. Jesus refers to God as "Father" more than anything else. Why do you think this is?
8. The final few verses (11:28-30) are much-loved for the invitation Jesus offers. What might be some of the weariness or burdens in peoples' lives Jesus is addressing?
9. The concept of the yoke was often used in relation to wisdom or the law of God. One took up that yoke by learning from God's Word and teaching. How does Jesus adapt or change this in His invitation?
10. What is one thing God is speaking to you through this study? If you're on your own, write that down, pray over it, and share it with someone this week. If you are with a small group, share your answers with one another before closing in prayer.

DIG DEEPER:

This week dig deeper into Jesus' teaching here in one or more of the following ways:

- Memorize Matthew 11:28-30.
- Take time in prayer this week to consider what weariness or burdens you need to bring to Jesus. Also, pray about how you can respond to Jesus' invitation to enter His easy yoke.
- To reflect more deeply on this passage, sketch, ink, or paint a response to Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30. As you do that, prayerfully talk with Jesus about your burdens and His easy yoke.
- Consider reading one of the following:
 - Charles Spurgeon's sermon, "Christ's Yoke and Burden": spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/christs-yoke-and-burden/
 - Dallas Willard's article, "The Secret of the Easy Yoke": renovare.org/articles/the-secret-of-the-easy-yoke