

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 9/13-14/2021 *Matthew Chapter 11*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN**

!!!! CLASSROOM HS107!!!! (NEW ROOM LOCATION, 4 DOORS DOWN TO THE WEST), CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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One tap mobile

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Objectives of Study – Jesus, the healer and forgiver of sins!

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew! *Chapter 11*

John the Baptist Sends Messengers to Jesus – (vs. 1- 19)
Woe to the Impenitent Cities – (vs. 20-24);
Jesus Gives True Rest – (vs. 25-30)

In chapter 10, Jesus had just appointed of the disciples twelve that He had called apostles and He sent them out to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. They were not to go to the cities of the Gentiles, they were not to go to the Samaritans, but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. They were to heal the sick, they were to cleanse the leper, they were to proclaim the glorious day of the Lord. And then having sent them out, chapter eleven.

Messengers from John the Baptist

Mat 11:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

- ***Commanding His twelve disciples*** – The commandments of their going forth of the type and ministry they should have. They went out sort of as advance teams for Christ. They were to go in the villages and share of what Jesus Christ was doing; and as they had left, He then began to follow. Remember He told them they would not complete their whole circuit of the villages until He had come. (***Mat 10:23***) *When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.* So, He followed after them to teach and preach in their cities.

Mat 11:2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples

- ***John the Baptist***, who at the present time was in prison, as the result of his denouncing Herod Antipas for his immorality. Herod Antipas, who was ruling over the Galilee region, had gone to Rome and there he seduced his brother's wife. When he came back to the Galilee, he divorced his wife and began to live with his brother's wife, Herodias. John the Baptist condemned him for this, speaking out against the sin. As the result of speaking out against the ruler, John was in prison.

Mat 11:3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

- ***Remembering when Jesus came to be baptized by John***, that John, was reluctant to baptize Jesus. He said, You should be baptizing me. Then, when Jesus was baptized, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God descended upon Him, John knew then that Jesus was the Messiah. Now John had been sent to declare to the people that the Messiah was on the way. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths, make straight the paths in the wilderness." He was a forerunner of Jesus Christ. John then began to point His disciples to Jesus.
- ***Now John is in prison.*** He hears of what Jesus is doing, but probably was getting a little impatient. It would be hard for an outdoorsman man like John to be in prison. He was a man of the open air. He was a rough individualist. He had a camel skin coat. He had a diet of locusts and wild honey. He, no doubt, had the same concept of the Messiah that was the general feeling and thought concerning the Messiah by the people of that day; in that the Messiah would establish and set up the kingdom of God immediately upon the earth, and that the Roman rule would be done away with, and God's glorious kingdom was going to be established.
- ***John was likely tired of being in jail***, wondering what was taking Jesus so long to take over the control. He sent His disciples to Jesus with the question, Are you the one that we are to look for, or shall we start looking for someone else? In other words, let's get the show on the road. Let's get things moving. Let's get the Romans out of here and let's get the kingdom established!
- ***A Crisis in faith!*** This is John the Baptist, who is described as having an indescribable crisis of faith. He seems to be doubting that Jesus is the Messiah. That's how difficult the trial is that he is facing! Are You the Messiah or are we still looking for Him? Just think, here is John the Baptist, having had the opportunity to know Jesus as a cousin; to have baptized Him; has seen the Holy Spirit descending on Him like a dove, which was prophetic, in identifying Jesus as the Messiah. Here he is having a crisis in faith. It was not a crisis of faith in unbelief, He believed that God was indeed able. But it was his questioning why God, who has the total ability to free him from prison but hadn't done it yet. This could well be an example of the greatest trial any of us could ever face. Unmet expectations in expecting God to respond in a certain way that we want and desperately pray for! Then when He doesn't answer in that expected and hoped for way, we can have this kind of trial of our faith. Not whether God can do what we want, but why doesn't He? It's a doubting of His wisdom, of His ways! We should never look down on a person going

through such trials. This does happen in Christians' lives on a regular basis! Remember Peter's denial of Christ.

- **How does Jesus answer his doubts?** Jesus knows fully well what John is going through! It is commendable that John brings his questions to God! That's the right thing to do. So how does Jesus respond? By the demonstrating the prophetic word of God. Jesus tells John's disciples to tell John that they have seen the exact things being done that were prophesied that the Messiah would do. We see the perfect antidote to a doubting in faith crisis! That it to stand on the word of God! This was Jesus' answer. John then could stand in the word of God in continuing his imprisonment and ultimate beheading. Not on his personal physical circumstances being unmet, but that Jesus is the Messiah, based on the prophetic scriptures. Jesus is showing John that his faith in Jesus needs to be based not on what I do or don't do, even in a crisis as big as the one you're facing. Faith on Me as the Messiah, needs to be based supremely upon the fact that I am the Messiah, based upon the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. I am the Messiah based upon the most trust worthy thing in the world! And that is the word of God! The thing that will anchor you and hold you as you go through such crises, is the word of God. That is what Jesus speaks. He gives the word of God back to John the Baptist. I am Messiah, based on the prophetic word of God, which never changes! As Peter said, *(2Pe 1:16-19) For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. [17] For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." [18] And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. [19] And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;* That is the thing that saves a person when we come into such a crisis!

Mat 11:4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:

Mat 11:5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. *(Isa 29:18) In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. (Isa 35:4-6) Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you." [5] Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. [6] Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. (Isa 61:1) "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

Mat 11:6 And blessed is he who is not offended (a stumbling block, entrap, trip-up) **because of Me."**

- **Jesus was doing the works of the Messiah.** In the thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah, as Isaiah was prophesying the great day of the Lord, the day of God's kingdom upon the earth, He declares that the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose, blossom abundantly. There will be joy and singing. Then he speaks about how that the eyes of the blind shall be open, the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. The lame will leap as a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will sing. In the wilderness shall waters break out in streams in the desert. So, it is happening! The blind are seeing. The lame are walking. The dead are being raised from the dead. Rather than affirming by a vocal affirmation, yes, I am the Messiah. He said the works speak for themselves! Go tell John what you see. Tell John the works that are happening. **"The poor have the gospel preached to them.**
- **And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."** Happy is he to whom I shall not prove a stumbling-block. Who shall not take offence at My poverty and lowliness of life, so as to reject Me and My doctrine? Happy is the one who can see the evidence that I am the Messiah, and follow Me.

Mat 11:7 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

- **John was in the wilderness..** He was baptizing down in the Jordan River. Multitudes were coming out of the villages and from Jerusalem down to hear this weird character, to hear his preaching, his fiery sermons. Many were being baptized. There was a real revival that was going on! Multitudes would go down to see John. They pretty much respected him as a prophet of God.
- **A reed shaken by the wind?** Reeds were common there along the banks of the Jordan river, with no steadfastness, blowing about in every directions, simply responding to the direction the wind was blowing.

Mat 11:8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

- *But what did you go out to see?* Really, what drew you there?
- *A man clothed in soft garments.* Were you looking for some fellow with soft, silk garments, which are worn in kings' houses, not in kings' dungeons?

Mat 11:9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.

Mat 11:10 For this is he of whom it is written: 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.' (Mal

3:1) *"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.*

- **This is a combination of a couple of prophecies concerning the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist, that come out of Isaiah and out of Malachi.** Jesus declares that John was the fulfillment of that prophecy. More than a prophet, he was the one of whom it was written, He would be a messenger before the Messiah, prepare the way for Him.

Mat 11:11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- **Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist:** That's a pretty high commendation of John because you have to think of Moses. You have to think of Samuel. There was Elijah, Elisha. There was Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel! But "*among those that were born of women there wasn't a greater than John the Baptist.*"
- ***But he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*** Amazing. John's message was one of impending judgment--calling them to repentance, speaking of the day of the vengeance of our God, and calling upon them to repent before the day of judgment. John did not know the tremendous extent of God's love for sinning man. All he knew was the judgment of God that was going to come upon sinners. The great love of God for sinful man was manifested in the death of Jesus Christ. John did not see that. He did not know that.
- **You today who have come to know the love of God through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice of His life for you really have a greater revelation and a greater understanding of God** than did John the Baptist. Because to us is revealed the glorious love of God for sinning, failing man. So 'though John was the greatest of all of the Old Testament prophets, yet the person who is "least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." The least saint here tonight has a greater understanding of the true nature of God, the love of God, because that was manifested to us when Christ died for the ungodly.
- **Since the day of Pentecost,** every believer has access to the power (*dunamis*) of the Holy Spirit. (*Act 1:8*) *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* During the days of the prophets, it was primarily the power or authority (*exousia*).

Mat 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

- ***The kingdom of heaven suffers violence.*** This is a difficult verse to interpret because the "*force*" mentioned can be either internal or external. The forces of evil from without seek to destroy it, that is true. John suffered violence. He was, at that moment, in the dungeon there by the Dead Sea in one of the fortresses. John the Baptist was soon to be beheaded. Jesus was to be crucified, the kingdom of heaven was suffering violence. This was true throughout the Old Testament. Those true prophets of God that dared to challenge the people, dared to rebuke them for their wickedness, were stoned, were martyred, "*the kingdom of heaven suffers violence,*"
- ***The violent take it by force.*** **But also, those who are committed wholeheartedly press into it! That is,** they violently want to come in. We might refer to this as a "*holy violence*". There is a note of need and desperation. They earnestly seek after Jesus. They will not rest until they find Him! They may take to much prayer and search His word, until they remember that Christ came into the world to save every sinner who was willing to cast himself upon His blood and righteousness, taking Him at His Word and trusting God. But then this violence does not end when he finds Christ but begins to exercise itself in another way. He becomes violently in love with Christ, loving Him not just a little, but with all his soul and all his might.

He continues his holy violence, pressing in to the kingdom of God, in coming against every foe and enemy through his relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mat 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

- **Jesus sees an era ending with John.** *All the prophets and the law* anticipated John and his ministry as a prophet and proclaimer. In a sense, John the Baptist speaks for every prophet who prophesied of Jesus' coming.

Mat 11:14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.

Mat 11:15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

- **If you can handle this, this is Elijah.** Now people today still have a hard time handling it. Because we do know that the last prophecy of the Old Testament there in Malachi chapter four was the prophecy of Elijah (chapter four, verse five). "Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."
- **So, this promise of Elijah coming before the great day of the Lord.** The Jews were looking for Elijah. When John the Baptist was ministering, down in the Jordan river, was baptizing down there, they came down to him. They said, "Are you Elijah?" Now John answered, "No."
- **There seems to be a discrepancy. Jesus said if you can handle it, this is Elijah who is to come.** And yet when they were asking John the Baptist, are you Elijah pointblank, he said no. So how do you account for the seeming discrepancy?
- **Now we have come to know that the answer to this seeming problem is in the two comings of Jesus Christ.** In His first coming, He fulfilled those prophecies that dealt with His being despised and rejected and being put to death. But we know that He is coming again to establish the kingdom of God and to establish the glorious reign of God over the earth in the kingdom age. So, the other prophecies that were not yet fulfilled will be fulfilled when Jesus returns.
- **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.** In other words, going to take a little bit of understanding, but yes, He was and yet He shall be. Elijah shall come before the coming again of Jesus Christ.
- **The Jews, in anticipation of the fulfillment of this prophecy,** even to the present day when they have their Passover Feast, have an empty chair at the table for Elijah. They leave the door open. One of the children goes to the door quite often to look to see if Elijah's coming, as they are looking for the Messiah, and Elijah to precede the Messiah.

Mat 11:16 "But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions,

- **This is a picture of a group of children out playing in the streets.** One group says, "Let's play funeral." They play funeral for a while. They soon tire of it and then say, "Let's play wedding." Soon they grow tired of playing wedding. They go from one extreme to another. They are spoiled children. The generation Jesus was speaking to was like that, and our generation is also.

Mat 11:17 and saying: 'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.'

- **In other words, what do you want?** We've tried to party. You don't want to party. We tried to be sober and serious, you don't want that. What do you want? What will it take to please you?

Mat 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'

- **For John came neither eating nor drinking.** He was both austere and severe. They said, 'He has a demon.'

Mat 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified (set right) by her children."

- **So, John was an ascetic, severely self-disciplined, whereas Jesus joined in with people in dining,** eating with publicans and sinners. They said He is too friendly! They weren't please with John, nor were they pleased with Jesus. They found fault with both. Just what do you want?
- **But wisdom is justified by her children.** The Lord Jesus, of course, is *wisdom* personified. (*1Co 1:30*) *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.* Though unbelieving men might slander Him, He is vindicated in His works and in the lives of His followers. Though the many of the Jews might refuse to acknowledge Him as Messiah-King, His claims were completely verified by His miracles and by the spiritual transformation of His devoted disciples.

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

Mat 11:20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

- **When John wrote his gospel, he said if all of the things that Jesus did were recorded,** I suppose that all of the libraries in the world could not hold the books. John said many other things Jesus did which are not written, weren't recorded. Now what Jesus did in Chorazin, what He did in Bethsaida, are not recorded. The miracles that were wrought in these cities, we know nothing about them. Most of the miracles that we know about were done either in Capernaum or in Jerusalem. But there was a ministry in these other villages, there were great mighty works done in these villages. But they did not repent! The more God has done to draw men unto himself, the less excusable are they if they continue in iniquity. If our blessed Lord had not done everything that was necessary for the salvation of these people, he could not have reproached them for their lack of repentance.

Mat 11:21 "Woe (ouai – denoting pain or displeasure) 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.

- **We have now come to a tremendous change. Remember that Jesus is the King.** He has enunciated the ethic. He has presented His credentials by performing miracles. He has preached the gospel that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. He has presented Himself, but His people have rejected Him. Their rejection has caused Him to make a decision, and He rejects them. He is the King, and the King always has the last word.
- **These Gentile cities had the works that had been done in these Gentile cities that were done in Chorazin and Bethsaida, they would have repented.** So, the woe pronounced. It's interesting that these two cities upon which He pronounced woes today are nothing but absolute ruins. They have recently discovered the sight of Chorazin and have done some excavation, and you can go there and see what remains of Chorazin. The site of Bethsaida is not absolutely determined yet. It was so completely destroyed as was Capernaum.

Mat 11:22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

- **When God judges, there will be equity and fairness in His judgment.** The cities and individuals will be judged according to the light and the understanding that they have received. There will be degrees of punishment, but it will all be according to the light and the knowledge that the person has been given.
- **Peter said in (2Pe 2:21) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.** This is what Jesus is affirming. It will be more tolerable in the day of judgment. They will receive a less harsh punishment because they did not have the same light given to them that you have received. They did not have the opportunity to see the mighty works of God. You have seen, you've rejected. You wouldn't repent.

Mat 11:23 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.

- **Capernaum,** chosen by Jesus to be His headquarters, faces an even greater condemnation. Curiously, there is no record that the people of that city ever mocked or ridiculed Jesus, ran Him out of town, or threatened His life. Yet the sin of that city, which was indifference to Christ, is worse than Sodom's gross wickedness The city of Sodom would not have been destroyed. The people would have repented, had the works been done there, that were done here in Capernaum.

Mat 11:24 But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

- **Judgment according to the light that is given.** That is why when questions are asked concerning the people in Africa that have never heard of Jesus Christ, the Lord will be fair in His judgment. He will judge them according to the amount of knowledge or light or understanding that they have received. But you see, that puts the pressure on you because of the amount of light that you have received. Thus, it will be more tolerable in the day of judgment for the people of Sodom than it will be for you. If you reject Jesus Christ, having had the light, and having received the understanding. Your rejection of the light brings a stronger, harsher penalty than never having seen the light.

Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest

Mat 11:25 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 and have revealed them to babes. (1Co 1:18) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- ***At that time Jesus answered and said...*** Having pronounced the judgments, He just sort of spontaneously turned to the Father. It gives us a little insight into the relationship of Jesus with the Father. Just how He would spontaneously just begin to talk to the Father.
- ***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.*** Here are these so-called religious leaders, filled with pride, arrogance, haughtiness, so ready to condemn; and yet so blind to the real truth of God. So caught up in politics and in the opinions of man, and yet so blind to God's truths. And here are the simple ones! Simple, plain people, receiving the truth, rejoicing in the truth. So, "I thank You Father that You've hidden these things from the wise and the prudent, and You have revealed them unto babes." Then Jesus declared, ***(Luk 10:21) In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.***

Mat 11:26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

- ***We see the sovereignty of God.*** You have allowed some to be blind. You've opened the eyes of others.

Mat 11:27 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.

- ***You cannot know God by searching.*** You can't decide, Well, I'm going to find God Zophar said to Job, ***(Job 11:7) "Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?"*** The truth is you can't. You can only know God as He is revealed and as He reveals Himself to you. God has revealed Himself to man in His Word. Yet, unless God has chosen to reveal Himself to you, you cannot know Him nor understand Him. Jesus is declaring, ***"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.***

Mat 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

- ***If you come to Jesus Christ, He will reveal the Father to you.*** He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life and no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." These people all thought they knew God. They thought that they were following God. They boasted in their knowledge of God. But Jesus said you really don't know Him. You don't know Him. I know Him. You don't know the truth about God. I know the truth about God. It is only as I reveal Him that you can know Him. Now "Come unto Me," in knowing Me, in understanding Me, you'll know and understand the Father. He that has seen Me, has seen the Father. I've come not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. To do the works of Him who sent Me. God is revealed to us in and through Jesus Christ.
- ***The book of Hebrews opens with the words, God who at different times and in different places*** spoke to our Fathers by the prophets, has in these last days, spoken unto us by His own dear Son. God's revelation of Himself in Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus Christ, you cannot know the truth about God. His invitation is to ***"Come to me, all you that labor and are heavy laden."***
- ***Now what is the heavy burden that every man is bearing?*** First of all, every man is bearing a burden. He can't escape it! It's life! Jesus is calling unto those who are weary, heavy laden. He is promising them rest. The heavy burden that man is bearing is the burden of trying to please himself. You may say, Well, my goal in life is to be rich. I'm living for riches. Why do you want riches? Who are you going to spend it on? Who do you want to spend it on? Me. You see, self. You think that riches will provide satisfaction. I would be happy if I was rich. I know that that's all it would take to make me happy is just riches. So that business of trying to please yourself, trying to be happy.
- ***Others are seeking in pleasure, and right now, we see a pleasure mania across the country,*** and all kinds of things to excite and to bring pleasure. In this computer age, they're developing computers with sense probes and everything else, which give a new generation of pleasure toys that are being marketed. It's a tremendous business providing excitement, providing pleasure--from your major league professional sports to your Disneyland's and Magic Mountains and all. All of these things are designed to appeal to that desire of man for excitement and pleasure. It's a burden.

- **Everybody has a burden. Wanting to be happy, wanting to find satisfaction, wanting to please yourself.** As a result, there's an unrest in every heart, because I'm not satisfied. We are always looking for some new sensation, some new thrill. That heavy burden, trying to please yourself that leads to restlessness. Jesus said, "*Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden. I will give you rest.*" I'm the place where you can rest.

Mat 11:29 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.

- **It is assumed that Jesus was a carpenter.** In those days a carpenter was much involved in making and shaping yokes for oxen. They would bring the ox to the carpenter. He would put the yoke on, making the measurements. Then, it was a process of shaping the yoke for the ox so that the ox would be able to pull it with the least amount of chaffing or pressure or strain. I would imagine that Jesus made the best yokes that you could buy!
- **He is saying, "Take My yoke upon you, because My yoke is easy! Take My yoke."** Take My yoke. I have a plan for your life. I have a purpose for your existence. Lose your life in Him and you will find it. Take My yoke on you. Let Me take over the reins and begin to direct your life. The invitation isn't just to come. It's a threefold invitation. It is to come! Then, it's to take the yoke or to submit to His control, to His authority in your life. Then, the third thing is to learn of Me!
- **Then He tells you why! *For I am gentle and lowly in heart!*** He has just thanked the Father that the Father has hid the truth from the proud and the arrogant and revealed it to babes. Now He declares, "I am gentle and lowly in heart!"
- **And the promise, *You shall find rest for your souls!*** We are living in a very restless age. We are living in a very restless society. There's just an unrest, It's just in the air. You can feel it. You can see it when you drive down the street! People are living on the edge. Yet, Jesus is saying, "You'll have rest for your soul." You can have real peace of mind, when it comes to coming to Jesus, turning your life over to Him, and learning about Him. For in learning about Him, again, you're learning about God. No man knows the Father except those to whom the Son reveals Him. So, in learning about Jesus, you're learning about God. Learn of Me.

Mat 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- **What was His burden?** Every man has a burden, the burden that man has is trying to please himself. That's a heavy burden. That's a heavy, heavy burden, which is hard to bear. What was His burden? My burden, He said, is light; yours is heavy. Mine's light, what's His burden? His burden was to please God. "I do always those things," He said, "that please the Father." I didn't come to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. Thus, His burden, His master passion of life, that for which He lived, the paramount thing that kept Him going, that got Him up in the morning, that pushed Him through the day, was to please the Father! He lived to please the Father. He said, "*My burden is light.*" It is easier to please God than to please yourself. If you are living to please yourself, you will always be in an agitated state of unrest with a heavy burden that cannot be fulfilled. But if you live to please God, you'll find that it's light. It's easy. "*My burden,*" He said, "*is light.*"
- **Often burdens are put on us by others.** There are people that would love to put their burden on you. We can get weighted down by other people's problems. But they're not burdens that God has put on us necessarily. Now the Bible says, "Bear one another's burdens, so fulfill the law of Christ." I am to bear burdens of others. But then it also said, "And every man shall bear his own burden." In other words, you pull your own weight, too.
- **But the Lord's burden, that's light. That's a joy. That's a blessing.** It's so exciting to serve the Lord, so exciting to see God working. He said, "*My yoke is easy, My burden is light.*" That is true! Pleasing God and living to please God has to be the most exciting, glorious life in the world. And you wait with anticipation for each new day to find out what exciting thing God has in store for today. *His yoke is easy. His burden is light.*

SUMMARY:

CRISES IN FAITH!

- **The thing that will anchor you and hold you as you go through such crises, is the word of God.** That is what Jesus speaks. He gives the word of God back to John the Baptist. I am Messiah, based on the prophetic word of God, which never changes! That is the thing that save you when you come into such a crisis!

WOE TO YOU! *Mt. 11:21;* - COME TO ME! *Mt. 11:28*

- **Perfect summary of the Gospel message!** The Seriousness of listening to the Gospel – It determines one’s eternal destiny! It Gives Understanding why man is divided about Jesus Christ! Men are divided about Him, and He divides them!
- **What has He said to you?** What determines what He does say to us? It is our attitude to Him! Our reaction to what He is; to what He says; to what He does.

WOE TO YOU CHORAZIN!... These were the cities where most of His might works went up.

- **What makes Him say woe to you?** To any man? Pride and nothing but pride!! Especially the pride of intellect. They sat in judgment. They looked on.
- **They never realized who he was!** They thought he was only a man – right there and wrong there - Woe to you! The man, a very clever man of course, doesn’t realize the Son of God has come into the world as the Son of Man. Even His mighty works that had never been done before didn’t impress them. Too wise, didn’t believe in miracles.
- **Because they repented not!** In their wisdom they didn’t need His help! His teaching, which made them uncomfortable; realizing they were sinners. Making fun of the blood of Jesus. They could look into His face and not see any need of Him! They never felt there was ever any need for the Son of God to come into the world. They were self- sufficient, self-contained.
- **Because Of That, He Said, Woe!** What else could He say to them?

COME TO ME! Looking at the other side of the equation. To whom does He say this? “He has revealed this to babes!”

- **Come unto me – all you who labor and heavy laden!** People who realize they are just babes! I have knowledge but it doesn’t help me. I don’t understand myself, life, what life is all about, death, what lies beyond death. I just don’t know. I am a babe! An ignoramus! I want life. I want hope. I’m fighting a terrible and a losing battle. I am laboring and am heavy laden! Terrible load of past sins on my shoulders. I’ve sinned and sinned and sinned! I’m crushed! I’m a complete moral failure! I don’t know what to do. I don’t know how to die! I’m about to die and I’m afraid of it. I don’t know what lies beyond. I’m afraid. God have mercy upon me a sinner!
- **The moment the man said that the sweetest voice he had ever heard.** Whispering to him, Come to Me. Come to Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden!!!!

AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST!!!

- **You see, we determine what He said, It’s our attitude!** Our state of mind. Our state of heart, our state of soul.
- **But if you say I don’t need Him, then comes the thundering answer Woe to you!**
- **But recognize and feel your need. Confess your sin and failure to God,** crying out for mercy and compassion. Repent! And the greatest invitation will come to you Come to Me! All you who labor and are heavy laden. It’s not your deeds that matter, but your attitude that matters!
- **What do you get? Rest for your souls.** The end of striving, unhappiness, fear of death, the grave and the judgment. But peace, rest, the knowledge of sins forgiven. Sin cancelled, wiped out, nothing against you! Rest for your souls. End of that striving to make yourself good, moral, and clean. Justifying yourself before God. End of all that!
- **He’ll give you new life on top of all that!** I’ll redeem you. I’ll keep you! I’ll never leave you or forsake you! He’ll keep you and He’ll hold you all the way! Until He has finally presented you faultlessly, without a spot or wrinkle or any such thing, to God, His heavenly Father into glory everlasting!
- **Can you refuse such an invitation?** Come unto Me! Come! I’ve died for your sin. I’ve cleared your debts! I’ve reconciled you to My Father. Come unto Me! You can have rest and peace for your souls. Come unto Me, you who are weary, and I will give you rest.
- **Have you heard the gracious invitation? Are you humble? Are you a babe? Are you ignorant?** Are you laboring, heavy laden? Do you feel lost and forlorn and helpless and terrified of death and judgment? Is that it? Are you ready to listen? Come! Come to Me! All you who labor and are heavy laden! And I will give you rest. Have you heard Him? If you have, say this to Him, I hear Your gentle voice! I am coming, Lord! Coming now to You! Wash Me, Cleanse Me in the blood that flowed on Calvary. Say that to Him.
- **Then for the rest of your life, this is what you will say to everybody, You want to know why I am what I am?** You want to know the explanation of the life I’m living? You want to know why I’ve got such joy? You want to know why I’m not longer afraid of death? Do you know why I’m able to conquer sins that always used to defeat me? Do you know the explanation?

- **This is the explanation! I heard the voice of Jesus say, Come to Me and rest! Lay down you weary one. Lay down your head upon My breast! I came to Jesus as I was! Weary and worn and sad. I found in Him a resting place and He has made me glad! Come unto Me all you that are weary and are laboring and are heavy laden And I will give you rest! Come to Me!**

Closing Song:

*(Mat 11:28) **Come to Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

JUST AS I AM – Charlotte Elliot/William Bradbury – Billy Graham Choir (2:44)

1 Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot, to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Closing Prayer:

Assignment for next week: Read *Matthew Chapter 12*

The Behold He Comes Bible Prophecy Conference Livestream Event

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