

Matthew 11

“Wisdom is justified by her children.”

Matthew 11:19

PRAYER: Father, please help me to see the mighty works of Christ in my life that I might repent, come to Him, and find rest for my soul.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 11, Jesus speaks of the people’s rejection of John the Baptist and Him, warning them of the coming judgment for not receiving the message of repentance. He offers rest to the souls of those who receive this message and take His yoke upon their lives.

Matthew 11 Outline:

Rejection of John the Baptist - Read Matthew 11:2-15

Rejection by Jesus’ Generation - Read Matthew 11:16-19

Rejection of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum - Read Matthew 11:20-24

Invitation to Come to Jesus - Read Matthew 11:25-30

Matthew 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.

Rejection of John the Baptist - Read Matthew 11:2-15

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

3 and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

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

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.

6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

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?

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.

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

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.’

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.

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

13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

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

15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

1. Read John's confession in John 1:29-34. Why do you think John, who was in prison (v. 3), doubted who Jesus is?

2. What did Jesus tell John's disciples to tell him (v. 4)?

3. Why is what Jesus told John's disciples (v.4-5) so significant? How would what they saw answer John's questions?

4. How might people be offended (v. 5) by Jesus? (See Isaiah 8:14-15, Romans 9:32, and 1 Peter 2:8.)

5. PROPOUND: When Jesus refers to a reed shaken by the wind (Matthew 11:7), what do you think He is saying?

6. Jesus asked the multitudes what they went into the wilderness to see: "A man clothed in soft garments" (v. 8). Was John clothed in soft garments? (See Matthew 3:4.)

7. Jesus, referring to John the Baptist, called him a prophet (v. 9) and the fulfillment of the prophecy (v. 10) from Malachi 3:1. When John himself was asked, "Who are you?" who did John say he was and who did he say he wasn't? (See John 1:19-23.)

8. Jesus said, "Among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist...." Who does Jesus say is greater than John (v. 11)?

9. PRODUCE: Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is taken by force (Matthew 11:12). How do you think that is done? Share your answer with the group.



10. PROCEED: Jesus said that John the Baptist "is Elijah who is to come." (Matthew 11:14) Share with the group what is meant by this statement. (See Malachi 4:5, Matthew 17:10-13, Mark 9:11-13, Luke 1:17, and John 1:21.)

11. PRACTICE: In Matthew 11:15, Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" What is meant by this statement? How can you be sure that you're "hearing"?

12. PROPOUND: Do you have ears to hear? What should you be doing? (See Luke 8:8 and Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29.)

Rejection by Jesus' Generation - Read Matthew 11:16-19

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

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

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

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 by her children.”

13. PROPOUND: Jesus refers to comments claiming John had a demon (v. 18). What do they say about Jesus in Matthew 9:34 and 12:22-24?

14. PROCLAIM: What point does Jesus make by comparing the generation of those hearing His words to children sitting in the marketplaces (Matthew 11:16-17)?

15. PROTECT: In Matthew 11:19, Jesus said, “Wisdom is justified by her children.” It is rendered as, “But wisdom is proved right by her actions,” in the NIV. Meditate upon this statement. Jesus used it in reference to Himself and John (v. 19). What does it mean?

Rejection of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum - Read Matthew 11:20-24

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

21 “Woe 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.

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

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.

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.”

16. Why did Jesus rebuke these cities (v. 20)?

17. Tyre and Sidon were Gentile cities; Chorazin and Bethsaida were cities near Galilee. Most of Jesus’ mighty works were done in these cities (v. 20). Why is it important to recognize and acknowledge the works of God in your life? (See also Luke 12:48.)

18. PROPOUND: Jesus used the word *woe* when addressing these cities. What does that word mean?

19. Capernaum was considered Jesus' hometown (Matthew 4:13). Jesus compared this city to Sodom, which was judged with fire (Genesis 19:24-28). Why did Jesus judge this city so harshly? Who else does Jesus judge in the same manner? (See Matthew 10:15.)

Invitation to Come to Jesus - Read Matthew 11:25-30

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.

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

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.

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

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.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

20. PROPOUND: In Matthew 11:25, Jesus thanked His Father for hiding “these things” from the wise and prudent. What are some of the “things” He is referring to? (See Matthew 13:11, Matthew 16:17, and John 14:6-7, 15:15.)



21. PROPOUND: Jesus said that His Father reveals the hidden things to babes. Who are babes? Are you a babe? How do you become a babe? (See Matthew 18:3, 19:14, Acts 4:13, and 1 Corinthians 1:27.)

22. Jesus said, “Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son...” (v. 27). How does a person come to know the Father (v. 27)? (See also John 14:6-10, 1 John 2:23, and 1 John 5:20.)

23. PROMOTE: How does Jesus say a person who labors and is heavy laden can obtain rest (Matthew 11:28-29)? (See also John 3:16-17 and 6:37.)

24. PROPOUND: Jesus said to take His yoke upon you (Matthew 11:29). What is a yoke?



25. Jesus said we should take His yoke upon us and learn from Him (v. 29). How do we learn from Him? (See John 13:15, 1 Peter 2:21, and 1 John 2:6.)

26. How does Jesus describe His yoke that He wants us to take upon ourselves (v. 30)? (See also 1 John 5:3.)

PROCESS: Take some time to review what you've learned in Matthew 11. Be sure to highlight what the Lord shows you so you can share it with the group.

PRAY: Father, thank You for Jesus' mighty works seen in Your Word. Help us to repent, obey your Word, and take Your yoke upon ourselves.

Journal your prayer here: