

# Matthew 11

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# Matthew 11

Evangelism, setbacks

Question: "Then who can be saved?" – Matthew 19:25

This question was asked by the disciples after Jesus spoke about the difficulty of the rich man entering the kingdom of heaven.

Response: I Corinthians 15:1-4 (Apostle Paul).

Brothers and sisters, now I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you have accepted and stood firm. 2 If you hold fast to the word which I have preached to you, you will be saved by this gospel. Otherwise, your faith is in vain. 3 The first priority I have received is that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and he was buried, and rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

Ephesians 1:13

13 When you hear the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, you are included in Christ. When you believe, you are sealed in Him, the Holy Spirit of promise.

Matthew 11

John the Baptist knew that the Lord Jesus was the Son of God, but he would still be weak and lose patience. Send and ask why the Lord did not save him from prison Therefore, when we are in danger, we should be especially careful not to fall into the devil's tricks and doubt the Lord's will. We must not read the Bible with our own ideas, because the words and deeds of the Lord Jesus recorded in the Bible may not match our expectations, and we will stumble because of Him. We need to have a spiritual ear to hear the word of the Lord.

When John the Baptist was temporarily weak, the Lord Jesus did not criticize and condemn, but encouraged him with more revelation and testified about him to the crowd [Matt. 11:11] "Verily I say unto you, There shall arise no one born of a woman greater than John the Baptist." We are to learn to fear the Lord's servants and not judge them, especially when he is weak. In verses 7–9, Jesus led the crowd to think about why they had gone into the wilderness to hear John the Baptist's sermon. They did not go out to see the scenery ("to see the reeds blown by the wind") or to chase the stars ("to see the man in soft clothes"), but to hear the word of God, John the Wash, who was sent by God to prepare the way before God. "We play the flute to you, but you do not dance"; We mourn unto you, and ye do not beat your breasts: the parable preaches the warning of God's righteous judgment to the world, but the people will not repent; The world preached the good news of God's grace, but the people were indifferent. When we preach the gospel, we encounter setbacks, rejections, and feel so tired, so burdened, and almost unbearable? Don't let such setbacks affect our mood and will to continue to do the work of the Lord, even when Jesus preached the gospel, there were hard-hearted people who rejected Him; Let us follow Jesus' example more and be obedient to the will of our Heavenly Father and rest in His Word.

Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I thank you! For thou hast hid these things from the wise and understanding, and hast revealed them unto babes. "Father" indicates that God is the source of all; "Lord of heaven and earth" indicates that it is God who rules and arranges everything. The Lord Jesus knew that everything that came to Him came from God the Father. "I thank you" means that the Lord has not only accepted the providence of God's hand, but has received it with thanksgiving.

"Thou hast hid these things from the wise and understanding; to the child, and it will be revealed": this speaks of the principle of God's work. Although God is pleased to reveal Christ to man (Gal. 1:16), if a man thinks he is wise and understanding, and wants to grasp spiritual things intellectually, he does not receive revelation. Only by opening your heart like a baby and simply facing the Lord will you receive a fullness of revelation. Jesus was always grateful; He understood that God was in control. In fact, you can be grateful for any situation, but not for the frustration itself, but for the good things that extend from the frustration. Because God is in control, everything must come with God's permission. Jesus was gentle and humble in heart. Jesus said, Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

God reminds us that we are to be thankful for experiencing the presence of many of God, many of whom will never experience miracles in their lifetime. Nor do we judge others, for God is more demanding of us, and we have to give an account to God, and God will take more from whom God gives; Ask for more from whomever you ask.

We need to cherish what we have now and be thankful for the many experiences of God's presence. Without the Lord, we would be like floating in this wicked and depraved world, miserable and miserable. We unload all our burdens and entrust them to the Lord who loves us. His yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

We pray together.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, we thank and praise You! Thank you for being incarnate, bringing the gospel to the world, and inviting us to rest before you. Pray that the Lord will help us to be closer to you every day, to know you more, to love you, and to preach your gospel with a firm heart. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

## Matthew 11

### John's Questions

**11** When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and to preach in their [Galilean] cities.

<sup>2</sup> Now when <sup>[a]</sup>John [the Baptist] in prison heard about the activities of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and asked Him, “Are You the Expected One (the Messiah), or should we look for someone else [who will be the promised One]?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive [their] sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed [by healing] and the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed [joyful, favored by God] is he who does not take offense at Me [accepting Me as the Messiah and trusting confidently in My message of salvation].”

### Jesus' Tribute to John

<sup>7</sup> As these men were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out in the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind [which is commonplace]? <sup>8</sup> What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing* [entirely unsuited for the harsh desert]? Those who wear soft *clothing* are in the palaces of kings! <sup>9</sup> But what did you [really] go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one [more eminent, more remarkable, and] <sup>[b]</sup>far more than a prophet [who foretells the future]. <sup>10</sup> This is the one of whom it is written [by the prophet Malachi],

‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.’

<sup>11</sup> I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, among those born of women there has not risen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater [in privilege] than he. <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize]. <sup>13</sup> For all the prophets and the Law prophesied up until John. <sup>14</sup> And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is [the fulfillment of] Elijah [as the messenger] who was to come [before the kingdom]. <sup>15</sup> He who has ears to hear, let him hear *and* heed My words.

<sup>16</sup> “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like little children sitting in the market places, who call to the others, <sup>17</sup> and say ‘We piped the flute for you [playing wedding], and you did not dance; we wailed sad dirges [playing funeral], and you did not mourn *and* cry aloud.’ <sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking [with others], and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking [with others], and they say, ‘Look! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners [including non-observant Jews]!’ Yet wisdom is justified *and* vindicated by her deeds [in the lives of those who respond to Me].”

### The Unrepenting Cities

<sup>20</sup> Then He began to denounce [the people in] the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent [and change their hearts and lives]. <sup>21</sup> “Woe (judgment is coming) to you, <sup>[c]</sup>Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon [cities of the Gentiles], they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes [their hearts would have been changed and they would have expressed sorrow for their sin and rebellion against God]. <sup>22</sup> Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for [the pagan cities of] Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than

for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, are you to be exalted to heaven [for your apathy and unresponsiveness]? You will descend to Hades (the realm of the dead); for if the miracles done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment, than for you.”

### **Come to Me**

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth [I openly and joyfully acknowledge Your great wisdom], that You have hidden these things [these spiritual truths] from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to infants [to new believers, to those seeking God’s will and purpose]. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one fully knows *and* accurately understands the Son except the Father; and no one fully knows *and* accurately understands the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son [deliberately] wills to reveal *Him*.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavily burdened [by religious rituals that provide no peace], and I will give you rest [refreshing your souls with salvation]. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [following Me as My disciple], for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest (renewal, blessed quiet) for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy [to bear] and My burden is light.”

Matthew 11 is a rich and multifaceted chapter that highlights Jesus’ ministry, His relationship with John the Baptist, and His teachings about repentance, revelation, and rest. Below is a detailed breakdown of the chapter:

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#### **1. John the Baptist’s Doubt and Jesus’ Response (Matthew 11:1-6)**

- **Context:** John the Baptist, imprisoned by Herod, sends his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” (v. 3).
- **Jesus’ Response:** Instead of a direct answer, Jesus points to His works: healing the blind, raising the dead, cleansing lepers, and preaching to the poor (v. 4-5). These acts fulfill Messianic prophecies (e.g., Isaiah 35:5-6; 61:1-2).
- **Key Verse:**
  - *“Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”* (v. 6)
- **Theological Insight:** Jesus’ identity is revealed through His actions, emphasizing that faith often requires trusting beyond immediate circumstances.

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#### **2. Jesus’ Praise for John the Baptist (Matthew 11:7-15)**

- **John’s Role:** Jesus declares John as the greatest born of women (v. 11) and identifies him as the fulfillment of Malachi’s prophecy (Malachi 3:1).
- **The Kingdom of Heaven:** Jesus introduces the idea that the kingdom is forcefully advancing, and it requires effort to enter (v. 12).

- **Key Verse:**
    - *“Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”* (v. 11)
  - **Theological Insight:** John’s greatness lies in his role as the forerunner to the Messiah, but those in the new covenant experience a deeper relationship with God.
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### 3. Jesus Rebukes Unrepentant Cities (Matthew 11:16-24)

- **Unrepentance:** Jesus compares the current generation to children who are never satisfied (v. 16-17). He rebukes cities like Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum for their failure to repent despite witnessing miracles.
  - **Comparison to Gentile Cities:** Jesus states that pagan cities like Tyre, Sidon, and even Sodom would have repented if they had seen the same works (v. 21-24).
  - **Key Verse:**
    - *“And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.”* (v. 23)
  - **Theological Insight:** Miracles alone do not guarantee faith; true repentance and transformation are essential.
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### 4. Jesus’ Prayer and Invitation to Rest (Matthew 11:25-30)

- **Jesus’ Prayer:** Jesus thanks the Father for revealing truths to the humble and “little children” while hiding them from the wise and learned (v. 25-26).
  - **Jesus’ Invitation:** He calls all who are weary and burdened to come to Him for rest, promising a yoke that is easy and a burden that is light (v. 28-30).
  - **Key Verses:**
    - *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (v. 28)
    - *“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”* (v. 29)
  - **Theological Insight:** Jesus offers spiritual rest to those who surrender to Him, contrasting the heavy burdens of legalism with the grace of His kingdom.
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## Theological Themes in Matthew 11

### 1. Messianic Identity:

- Jesus confirms His role as the Messiah through His works and teachings, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies.

- Faith in Jesus requires trust in His divine mission, even when circumstances seem uncertain.
2. **Revelation and Humility:**
    - God reveals His truths to the humble, not to the proud or self-reliant. This underscores the upside-down nature of God's kingdom.
  3. **Repentance and Responsibility:**
    - Witnessing God's works demands a response. The unrepentant cities face judgment because they rejected the opportunity to turn to God.
  4. **Rest in Christ:**
    - Jesus offers a personal relationship that brings rest and renewal, contrasting with the burdensome legalism of the Pharisees.
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## **Spiritual Influence of Matthew 11**

1. **Encouragement in Doubt:**
    - John the Baptist's moment of doubt shows that even great believers can struggle with uncertainty. Jesus' response encourages faith based on evidence and trust.
  2. **Call to Humility:**
    - The emphasis on God revealing Himself to the "little children" reminds believers to approach Him with humility and dependence.
  3. **Urgency of Repentance:**
    - The rebuke of unrepentant cities challenges individuals to respond to God's grace with genuine transformation.
  4. **Invitation to Rest:**
    - Jesus' invitation to the weary resonates deeply, offering hope and peace to those burdened by life's challenges or spiritual struggles.
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Matthew 11 invites readers to reflect on their faith, respond to God's works with repentance, and find rest in Jesus' gentle and loving leadership. If you'd like further exploration of a specific section, let me know!