

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Cities of Woe and an Easy Yoke

Last time...Jesus testified of John the Baptist, making mind-blowing statements about

1. Himself – His Deity (quoting Mal 3:1 from the perspective of His Personal participation in a conversation with the Father in heaven)
2. John the Baptist – greatest prophet, no greater man ever born of woman
3. the least in the kingdom of heaven – the Church, another mystery of God

This time...Jesus has

- sorrowful words for the cities (the unbelievers in) that have rejected Him
- inviting and comforting words of rest for those who have received Him

We will again be in Matt 11

v20-24 upbraid the cities...repented not...woe:

Jesus publically answered John the Baptist's questions...
with mighty deeds and with prophetic Word...
and He publically testified of John...
in mind-blowing fashion.

In His testimony of John, Jesus taught that there are only 2 responses to

- John the Baptist and his ministry
- Him and His ministry

v15

1. to have ears to hear...receive and believe, to repent
2. to not have ears to hear...to not receive and not believe, to not repent

Jesus now speaks to cities (the unbelievers in) that did not have ears to hear,
cities where He preached and did "most of His mighty works"

His words and His works testify of His Identity...the people of these cities
did not believe His testimony,
did not repent of their sin (unbelief)

[Map Chorazin Bethsaida]

1. Chorazin:
 - suburb of Capernaum, to the north
 - we know nothing of Jesus' ministry there (John 21:25)
2. Bethsaida:
 - suburb of Capernaum, to the northeast
 - hometown of Peter and Andrew and Philip
3. Capernaum
 - Jesus' ministry HQ
 - most privileged of cities

Jesus' one word summary to these cities: Woe...an expression of great sorrow,
not of great wrath

To the suburbs:

“If Tyre and Sidon

- Gentile/heathen/idolatrous cities
- Tyre:
 - Commerce/mammon was god
 - notorious for wickedness
 - historical enemy of Israel
 - “I am against the, O Tyre” (Ezk 26:1 – 28:19)
- Sidon:
 - Baal was god
 - gave Israel Jezebel...wife of King Ahab
 - notorious for wickedness
 - “I am against the, O Zidon” (Ezk 28:20-26)

had seen Me do what you have seen, they would have repented.

But I say unto you

- i.e. Thus saith the Lord
- i.e. the incarnation, God become man

the judgment Tyre and Sidon will face on the Day of Judgment is
less severe than the judgment you will face.”

To Jesus' ministry HQ city of Capernaum:

“You have been exalted unto heaven...by the Presence and work of God in your city.

Because you repented not, you will be brought down to hell.

“brought down to hell” appears only 2x in Scripture

- Is 14:15, speaking of...Lucifer
- Matt 11:23, speaking of...Capernaum

“go/gone down to hell” spoken of

- Ahithophel/Judas (Ps 55:15)
- strange woman (Prov 5:5)
- Meshech and Tubal (Ezk 32:27)

“cast down to hell” spoken of

- Pharaoh, King of Egypt...and Lucifer (Ezk 31:16)
- the angels that sinned (2 Peter 2:4)

If Sodom

- overrun with homosexual perversion and extreme wickedness
- destroyed by great Divine judgment, fire and brimstone from heaven
- a by-word for evil and perversion and confusion

had seen what you have seen, it would have repented.

But I say unto you, the judgment Sodom will face is less severe than the judgment you will face.”

Verily, verily: Woe unto Capernaum!

What do all 3 cities have in common?

All 3 of these cities were destroyed and remain in ruins to this day.

In fact, Bethsaida was only found in 1992

It is a very heavy thing to hear and see the Truth and still reject it!

Unchanging truth:

Luke 12:48

Every person is responsible for the revelation of God given to him/her

Is 45:21

God is just, giving every person according to his works/choices in light of the revelation he/she had

How much revelation have we been given?

Even greater

How much responsibility do we have?

Even greater

Where and only where are we spared a “Woe” from God and not left in ruin?

“in Christ”...abide, continue, obey

Back to Matt 11

In the face of all the unbelief in the 3 cities, what does Jesus say next?

v25-26 I thank Thee, O Father:

In the face of all the scorn, indifference, and unbelief in Him,
Jesus Christ turns to His Father – to give thanks...
for this is a part of the all-knowing God's Plan of Redemption and
Jesus is in full agreement with Him

O Father, Lord of heaven and earth...Creator God

Relationship vs procreation/biology

John 5:16-18 already, in Jerusalem

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and
we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of
the Father,) full of grace and truth

have hid these things

mysteries of His Plan and wisdom
identity and nature/essence of the Messiah
Gospel of grace and Truth

wise and prudent

proud and arrogant
religious self-righteous...Pharisees and scribes, the Gnostics
humanists...trust in the wisdom, opinions, and knowledge of man
intellectuals and the elite...today, the globalists
the great and mighty of the world
the disobedient, self-centered rejecters of God's truth

revealed them unto babes

the humble and poor
the common and simple
the defenseless and helpless
the ready and willing to hear
the eager and earnest to learn
the converted...trust in Jesus
the "foolish" and "weak" in the eyes of the world

1 Cor 1:18-31

Rom 11:33-34

The wisdom of God: a corrupt society is renovated from the bottom to the top,
never from the top to the bottom
The wisdom of God: the way up is down

Does USA have ears to hear?

No

Does much of the Church today have ears to hear?

No, it looks very much like the world

Will we have ears to hear?

Rom 12:1-2

Matt 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased;
and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted

v27 all things...no man knoweth:

Now speaking once again to the people, Jesus says all things

- in heaven and on earth
- those things hidden
- those things revealed

are given by the Father to Me

- Son
- Mediator (1 Tim 2:5)
- Messiah

And no man knows/recognizes/perceives/understands the Son except the Father

John 6:44-47

Heb 1:1-9

And no man knows/recognizes/perceives/understands the Father except

1. The Son
2. whosoever to whom the Son reveals Him...a revelation by faith

John 1:18

John 3:16

Matt 16:15-17

John 6:37-40

John 10:27-33

John 14:6-11

Then Jesus, the power of God and the wisdom of God, issues an amazing
invitation

v28-30 Come...Take...find:

Invitation to what:

- Come unto Me
- Take My yoke upon you
- Learn of Me

Invitation to whom:

- all that labor
 - toil in a world cursed by God
 - are fatigued by the endless difficulty of life
- all that are heavy laden, being crushed by the burden of
 - sin
 - the effects of sin – sickness and disease and death
 - the world and its corrupt and oppressive ways
 - anger and bitterness
 - the bondage of addiction
 - religion, the weight of doing enough good works to be pleasing to God
 - pursuit of happiness...trying to please himself (insatiable!)
 - pursuit of AD
 - almighty dollar
 - American Dream

Invitation from Whom:

- Jesus Christ, Who is meek
 - gentle
 - humble
- Jesus Christ, Who is lowly in heart
 - humble
 - humiliated (made lower than the angels)

Appeal of the invitation:

- I will give you rest...God Himself will give you
 - rest in a restless and agitated world
 - rest from the struggles of life and the burdens of the world
 - a refreshing in an exhausting world
 - a daily renewing
 - 2 Cor 4:16 though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day
- you will find rest unto your souls
 - Jer 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.
 - Matt 7:7-8 ask given, seek find
- Take My yoke upon you
 - Jesus was a carpenter, houses were of stones, so a carpenter usually made yokes for oxen (servants)
 - yokes were “custom tailored” to each animal so it could work with the least amount of chaffing, pressure, and strain
- Learn of me
 - older stronger teamed with younger to teach it to be a servant
 - to be fitted for a yoke and to put the yoke on in order to serve, the oxen must bow...submit to the Master
 - the term, so frequently applied to the nation of Israel, *stiff-necked* comes from an oxen that stubbornly refuses to bow and take on the yoke
- My yoke is easy and My burden is light
 - Jesus Christ, the humble Servant of God
 - His task/service is easy and light
 - gracious
 - kind
 - it is easier to please God than it is man, world, Self: by faith (John 6:23, 28-29)

1Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*

Let's think about what Jesus said, His invitation:

Who else but God could issue such an invitation (content)?

Who else but God could issue such an invitation...
to every person in the world?

EVERY person sooner or later finds himself/herself on the
"Invitation List"

- Labor
- Heavy laden

Who else but God could issue such an invitation...

- from a heart of this size and tenderness?
- with a love this great for mankind dead in sin and facing eternal death?
- with a place big enough for all who accept?

Therefore: Who is Jesus Christ?
He is God incarnate

The invitation is tendered...now it must be acted upon by the one to whom it is given

God initiates...a choice

Man must respond...a choice

Jesus did not issue an invitation to inactivity but to action

- come
- take
- learn...submit
 - to be meek (Matt 5:5)
 - to be humble

Is 1:18

Ps 51:17

Acts 3:19

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that
your sins may be blotted out, when the times
of refreshing shall come from the presence
of the Lord

- to be "in Christ"

Drawn by the Father's revealed Love and Grace and Truth...Jesus Christ the Son of God...
Come to Jesus

Jesus will reveal the Father to you...by faith, not knowledge (faith, then knowledge)

Give Jesus your burdens (1 Peter 5:7)

Take His yoke

Learn of Him, submit to Him

Find the refreshing and rest the world does not have

Find all of the solutions to life's frustrations and anxieties and sufferings

Rom 5:1 peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Phil 4:4-9 peace of God shall keep your hearts and minds and shall be with you

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that*
your joy might be full

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your
joy may be full

1 John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full

Remember Jesus' sorrowful words to the 3 cities...because it is a very heavy thing to hear and
see the Truth and still reject it!

Therefore...come, take, learn!

Believe the revelation of God you have been given

Surrender to His love and grace

Receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, the Light of the world

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son
of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may
believe on the name of the Son of God

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an
understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that
is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life

2 Cor 6:2

If you are willing to Take Jesus' yoke...to submit your life to Jesus Christ...come pray with me

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Closing Song