

It is often said that a man is known by the company he keeps. In the same vein, our company with Christ, or the lack of it, will reveal our hearts. Someone who is truly saved will desire to be with Christ. He will pursue after God’s will and God’s glory over his own. The closer he is to Christ, the more his heart and desires will be aligned with Christ.

1. Refusal to come to Christ (Matt 11:20-24): In his role as Prophet, Jesus was to forthtell, i.e. to pronounce judgment on those who had sinned against God. The cities Jesus mentioned here (Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida) were cities in which He performed the most miracles. So, the people there should have no excuse not to believe that Jesus is God. Jesus judged them because they repented not and because of their pride.

Tyre and Sidon were where Jezebel came from. The people there were Baal worshippers. Ezekiel even mentioned the king of Tyre as a type of Satan. Similarly, Sodom was known for its homosexuality and inhospitability. It was destroyed because there were less than 10 righteous people there. Should Jesus have done miracles in these cities, they would have repented faster and more genuinely, and would have remained faithful till the time of Jesus.

When we think we know better, we are making ourselves god. Just because we know Christ’s works does not mean we are better than others, and it does not mean that we have come to Christ. On the contrary, when we know of Jesus but choose to die in our sin, we will receive the greater condemnation.

2. Privilege to come to Christ (Matt 11:25-27): God is the one who chooses who are to be saved, and He chose “*babes*” (Matt 11:25), i.e. those who are weak, and who can do nothing for themselves. It satisfies God to use the poor and the base of the world for His glory.

Believers alone enjoy the privilege of salvation, and to have a relationship with God. God the Father “*knoweth*” (Matt 11:27), i.e. has an intimate, experiential knowledge of God the Son, and vice versa. It is a fellowship that existed since eternity past and will continue to exist into eternity future. As believers, we are invited to the table, and are able to taste of this eternal union between the Father and the Son. God saved us unto Himself to have that eternal relationship with Him. No angel has that same privilege. If we understand the privilege we have, we will run to Him to taste of that fellowship. Do you enjoy being in the presence of Jesus?

3. Way to Come to Christ (Matt 11:28-30): We have to come to Jesus, take His yoke and learn of Him. We do not have to bring anything, we just come as we are. If we realise we have sinned, and are in need of a Saviour, we can simply come to Jesus, and believe in Him and who He is without delay. Many are heavily laden with the guilt of their sins. When they do not come to God, they will continue labouring by their own strength. If they let go and submit to God, He can relieve them of their labour and weariness. Once we accept Jesus, we will know that our life belongs to God and we will live for Him. The yoke God gives is “*easy*” (Matt 11:30), i.e. it is virtuous, and good for us. Jesus will be our example, and when we see how He lived on earth, we can learn how to respond when we are in similar situations. Only then will we find rest in God.

Pray that we will receive Jesus, live for Him and be with Him for eternity!