Repentance Brings Rest

A Brief Commentary

by

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*Matthew 11:21-24 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, 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*.** *But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.* *And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee,* ***had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.*** *But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.*

In the above verses our Lord is criticizing the cities where most of the miracles were done--- **for not repenting**.

God does not say that the people of these cities didn't believe, although He often said that about Israel. Here He severely criticizes them because **they had not repented.** There is a great difference between repentance and just believing. **They had not repented.** They had ignored His teaching and His miracles. They were still in their sin. There had been no transformation of their lives**.** The Lord had lived in some of those cities, **and performed many miracles there**, and yet **they** **had not repented.**

Often the love of Christ is taught, when perhaps we don't often enough teach the woe's or judgements for those who despise Him and His teachings.

Notice the judgement of God on these cities we just read about, because they didn't repent: “...*It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you*” “...*it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.*”

Repentance **must come from the heart**, God knows whether or not you are repentant. Repentance is a conscious act of a sinner who has been convicted of that sin by The Holy Spirit of God, causing that sinner to recognize himself as the depraved sinner that he is, then turn from that sin and ask God’s forgiveness through the shed blood of Christ, and place himself at the mercy of God.

*Romans 2:16 In the day when God shall judge* ***the secrets of men*** *by Jesus Christ according to my gospel****.***

The great doctrine of John the Baptist, of Christ Himself, and of the Apostles was **repentance.** (Leave your sins and turn to GOD.) This, however, is impossible without God given faith.

*Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through* ***faith****; and* ***that*** *not of yourselves:* ***it is the gift of God:***

Like the seed that fell on stony ground:

*Luke 8:6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture*.

It is not enough that the Word of God touches us on the surface. Many churches teach just enough of God’s Word to make their people feel good, when they should teach enough to make them feel guilty for their sin. The Word really does no good unless it penetrates our whole being. Seed needs good soil and moisture to grow. This of course is all work of The Holy Spirit.

*John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

*John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

Some people are given more grace or more opportunity than others, (God is Sovereign.) He may cause more rain in one area than another, or more sunshine. However in Luke 12:48 we read: *“...Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required...”* The greater our opportunities the greater our obligation. The more Christ has revealed to us, the more heinous is our sin if we do not repent.

Now He says *“come unto* ***Me****... and* ***I*** *will give you rest”* and then in the next verse He says *“and* ***ye*** *shall find* ***rest for your souls****.”*

*Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Christ says, *“come unto me and I will give you rest...”* But we must **repent** if we wish to come to Him. So unless we repent we cannot find **rest for our souls.**

Christ is the **giver** of rest, and in Matthew 11:28 He specifies the terms by which **He dispenses it.**

He says *“take my Yoke upon you and learn of me;”*  Learning of Christ and His finished work, is the first step toward salvation. When we learn of Christ, His Holiness, and our sinfulness, we begin to realize the danger to our souls if we do not act on the Holy Spirit convictions in our lives. There can be no rest for our soul until we surrender ourselves unconditionally to Him.

Taking the yoke of Christ requires the throwing off of our old yoke of sin. Therefore, we are not taking on a heavier load, but actually our load becomes lighter.

What is a yoke? Many farmers used to plow with a yoke of oxen. The yoke was placed over the necks of the oxen to put them under subjection to the burden they must pull. This yoke is a figure of **subjection**.

We must place ourselves under subjection to Christ if we wish **rest for our souls**, **if we wish to be saved.** What would a child be like if he was never under the subjection of his parents? A man is born *"Like a wild asse's colt:” Job 11:12* We are born sinners, having inherited the sin of Adam, and when a child is born he is completely self willed, determined to have his own way at all costs, and unless he becomes subject to some higher authority, he will remain that way into adulthood..

Take My yoke upon you--**-surrender to My Lordship**.

*1 Corinthians 6:19,20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* ***For ye are bought with a price:*** *therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit,* ***which are God's.***

*Romans 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,* ***which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

If we are saved we will willingly take His yoke of authority, but if you refuse, that is evidence that you were never saved.

*Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels*.

*Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*

Take my yoke upon you. It is a definite act of one who seeks Christ, and without this, salvation cannot be obtained. However, this act is prompted by Holy Spirit conviction, and therefore, is not impossible to achieve.

*Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon*.

Ye who are weary and heavy laden  *“take My yoke.”* It sounds like an awful load for one who is already burdened down with sin. However, as we said before, taking His yoke **pre-supposes throwing off the yoke we had worn before.**

Most unsaved will not admit they are carrying a yoke. But really they carry the heaviest burden of all. They are carrying all their sin, and it will destroy them.

You see, Christ carried the big burden of our sin to the cross, so why should we continue to carry it. Just give it up and accept His burden, which is much lighter. The burden He wants **us** to carry is **only obedience**, and when we come to love Him, we will want to carry that yoke.

Jesus came down from Heaven to do the will of God The Father. That was to go to the cross for our sin. He gladly did that for us. That was His yoke that He bore. Can we not bear the Yoke of Obedience He has ask of us? Especially when He offers us Salvation freely.

My friend do not try to pretend or fake the taking of God’s Yoke.

The Yoke of Obedience includes complete trust in the Lord, and God knows the thoughts and intents of the heart.

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

If you will sincerely repent and ask Christ for salvation, He will save you and **you shall become part of God’s family**. If you do not, only eternal damnation awaits you.

*Romans 8:15-17 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;* ***but ye have received******the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*** *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint‑heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

*Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;* ***but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven****. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

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| ‘Tis the call of our Lord  Oh come unto me.  Take on my yoke,  For salvation so free. | Rest from your burdens  I’ve paid for your sin.  Receive my salvation,  A new life to begin. |