

Study Guide
Matthew 11:20-30
The Kingdom Has Come!

Big Idea: It's freeing to say: "You are God, and I am not!"

Today we find two more responses to the arrival of God's Kingdom:
Stiff-arming God vs. Coming to God.

1. Read Matthew 11:20-24. Stiff-arming God

The three little towns in Galilee (in rubble today), rejected the arrival of Messiah despite all the miracles done there (Matt. 8:16). Why do you think their judgment is greater than Tyre and Sidon and even Sodom? Could it be that stiff-arming God out of human pride is worse than other sins (Sodom) that are symptomatic of the core issue? Discuss.

2. Read Matthew 11:25-30. Coming to God.

a. Child-like Faith (v.25). Why do you think it requires child-like faith to come to God?

b. Christ-centered Faith (v.26-27). Why is the identity of Christ so important as the object of our faith?

c. Restful faith (v.28-30).

Take the remainder of your time discussing what it would look like for you to have a lifestyle of coming to Jesus in this way:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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Take a few moments to silently reflect on ways that you have been hesitant to come to Jesus. Why is that?

What might Jesus be saying to you during this season?

Message Slides

Responding to the Kingdom

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A. Stiff-arming God (v.20-24)

²⁰Then he began to denounce the cities where 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 done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

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Matthew 8:16

That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.

A. Stiff-arming God – Comparisons (v. 22-24)

²²But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

B. Coming to God in Faith (v.25-30)

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

1. Child-like Faith

"Wise and understanding"

1 Cor. 1:19, 20, 25 & 27

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, ...Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ...For the foolishness of God is wiser than men...God has chosen the weak, the foolish and the base things of this world to confound the wise."

B. Coming to God in Faith (v.25-30)

2. Christ-centered Faith (v.26-27)

²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

B. Coming to God in Faith (v.25-30)

3. Restful Faith- Life-style (v. 28-30)

²⁸“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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Reflection

Matthew 11:28-30 Msg

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”