

b) Deuteronomy 22:10

c) *The powerful yoked to the weak create oppression... weary and weighed down people.*

ii. The blind, the lame, the lepers, the dead, the dead and dying, and the poor!

C. How does the Messiah bring rest?

i. By being yoked together with Him.

a) This is the most powerful yoked together with the weak.

b) Phil. 2:6-8

ii. All of a sudden, the otherwise problematic unequal yoking becomes the greatest gift of all...because of the unusual nature of how God uses His power!

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What does it mean to repent?
- Is the wisdom of Jesus' teaching vindicated in your life? ... the wisdom of the Sermon on the Mount?
- What did the three towns (11:16-19) have in common? Why is it so surprising that they are condemned by Jesus?
- How does Paul describe the effect of grace in his life? In differing degree, would this be a good description of the effect of grace on you?
- What did the image of a yoke often bring to the weary and weighed down? Why was unequal yoking (ox and donkey) forbidden? Why is being yoked to Jesus so radically different?
- How do we know that the rest which Jesus offers is not the rest of inactivity?
- What is the essence of learning from Jesus? What will we learn? How might Philippians 2:5-8 speak to this?

DISCIPLE 1.0 Take My Yoke Upon You

Jerry Cisar — September 1, 2019

Text: Matthew 11:16-30

Introduction

I. Judging Generation (11:16-19)

A. This Generation is Like

i. This generation

ii. What it is like

Stanley Hauerwas: "John and Jesus have challenged the assumption that the way things are is the way they have to be. Indeed, John and Jesus claim that the way things are is an illusion."

B. "But wisdom is proved right by her deeds." (19c)

i. What wisdom is proved right?

ii. The wisdom Jesus' followers will prove as they live out the Sermon on the Mount.

a) The wisdom of what they heard and saw

b) The wisdom of the cross

iii. Jesus' Wisdom is vindicated as His children, his little ones, grow up learning how to walk!

a) This seems to be Luke's take on the phrase (Luke 7:35).

- b) Matthew's use of this word for "deeds."
- c) The wisdom of Jesus will be shown to be right in the lives of the little ones, the children, i.e. disciples!

II. Judging Jesus (11:20-24)

- A. "Because they did not change their lives!" (Bruner)
- B. These cities had a reputation of being places of God's visitation, but Jesus pronounces woe.
 - i. Chorazin
 - ii. Bethsaida.
 - a) The sight of many healings of Jesus, including giving sight to the blind. It is also where he fed 5,000.
 - b) It will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon than for you!
 - iii. Capernaum
 - a) Jesus' hometown
 - Isaiah 14:13-15
 - Jesus is poking at their pride and pompous attitude.
 - He may also be pointing out their militaristic understanding of the kingdom.
 - b) Capernaum: the field of repentance; city of comfort.
- C. Jesus judges these towns according to the grace they had received... but not responded to.

Craig Keener: "God judges peoples according to the opportunities they have had to respond to his truth."

- i. Paul describes what that looked like for him (1 Cor. 15:10).

F. D. Bruner: "Every member of a church has Jesus, for Jesus is present in his Word, fellowship, and sacraments. But Jesus does not *have* every member of his church; he has only those who, under the impact of his miraculous grace, are actually changing."

- ii. Associating yourself with Jesus for the benefits it brings you isn't the same as having a changed life.

III. Joining Jesus (11:25-30)

- A. What are "these things"?
 - i. It is the wisdom which will be vindicated by the works of the disciples... the wisdom of the cross.
 - a) 1 Corinthians 1:18-20, 25
 - b) 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
 - ii. The rulers of this age still don't understand this wisdom.
 - a) Is God anti-intellectual?
 - b) Such intelligence is the wisdom that keeps the powerful in power; the wisdom that props up the illusion of superiority!
- B. Who? *The weary and weighed down!*
 - i. Oppressive regimes were regularly spoken about in the OT as "yokes" which the people had to bear.
 - a) What is a yoke?