

Matt 11:20-30
Jesus' Offer Still Stands

Have you ever given serious thought to the reason for unbelief? Have you wrestled with the question, why people refuse to believe? Have you ever asked yourself, how could someone reject such wonderful truth? That Jesus Christ was crucified and raised from the dead so that sinners might be made right with God through faith in Him. It is astonishing that someone could hear that God has done for them what they could never do for themselves through the death and resurrection of His Son, and that all He calls them to do is repent and believe the gospel yet simply reject it. No contemplation. No investigation into whether it is true. Just rejection. But perhaps an even greater mystery is this: How can someone sit under sound biblical preaching week after week, year after year, and yet exhibit no lasting fruit? They worship alongside the people of God. They hear the Word of God proclaimed. They witness lives being transformed by the grace of God. They experience the love and fellowship of the community of believers. Yet they themselves remain unchanged. How is this possible? How can someone be in the presence of God's truth and remain unmoved? These are the very questions Jesus confronts in our passage this morning. His strongest words are not directed toward openly pagan cities, but toward towns that had witnessed His miracles, heard His teaching, and experienced His presence firsthand. **They had been given extraordinary light, yet they refused to repent. And their refusal to repent reveals three conditions of the heart that Jesus indicts.** This morning, I want us to consider these indictments, and I want each of us to earnestly ask ourselves if any of these apply to us.

First indictment is an indictment against indifference. V20 ⁴²⁰ Then Jesus began to denounce the towns where he had done so many of his miracles, because they hadn't repented of their sins and turned to God." This indictment is not a matter of who was more sinful. Jesus isn't saying that these Jewish communities were more sinful than these pagan communities. He is saying that these cities shared a privilege that none of these morally dead and pagan places shared. They had heard Christ's teaching, seen His miracles, and experienced His presence, first-hand. They had enjoyed enormous spiritual privilege and yet refused to repent. Church, greater privilege brings greater responsibility, and greater responsibility brings greater judgment. Listen! It is a dangerous thing to sit under the ministry of Jesus the Christ (that is to hear him, see him at work and touch him via the community of believers) and remain in unbelief. No repentance. No denial of self. No carrying ones cross. No transformation. No desire for any of these things to be at work in one's life. Jesus says to them and to us who fit this bill, woe to you! Are you indifferent this morning? That is, unbothered.

Luke 12:47-48 ⁴⁴⁷ "The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." **NIV**

John 5:39-44 ⁴³⁹ "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁴⁰ Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. ⁴⁴¹ "Your approval means nothing to me, ⁴⁴² because I know you don't have God's love within you. ⁴⁴³ For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me.

Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. ⁴⁴ No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God." **NLT**

Second indictment is an indictment against pride. V25 ²⁵ At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. ²⁶ Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!". The problem with the people in these Jewish cities was they believed their heritage was enough. They were blinded by self-sufficiency. Understand Jesus' words here. We will never come to know God until we first know the Son. Jesus reveals who God truly is. His primary character, love. Love that is covenantal and sacrificial. Love that would not let God give up on humanity, when He would have been just to do so. Pride, self-exaltation, attempts to place one above God. It will lead you to believe you don't need God's help. **Pride kept them from seeing their true need. They, like all people, needed a Savior who alone could reconcile them to God.**

Listen! Unless we become like a little child, which is to recognize we are helpless and without any means of our own to know God, we will never enter the Kingdom of God. Pride makes you your own worst enemy and an enemy of God. Are you full of yourself this morning?

Isaiah 2:11-12 "Human pride will be brought down, and human arrogance will be humbled. Only the Lord will be exalted on that day of judgment. ¹² For the Lord of Heaven's Armies has a day of reckoning. He will punish the proud and mighty and bring down everything that is exalted." **NLT**

Mark 10:13-15 ¹³ One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the

parents for bothering him. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

NLT

Proverbs 16:18-19 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹ It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud." **ESV**

Third and final indictment is an indictment against self-reliance.

V27-30 ²⁷ "My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²⁸ Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Church, notice who is extending the invitation. **This is no ordinary teacher, some guru, offering helpful advice. This is the Son to whom the Father has entrusted all things. He alone knows the Father perfectly, and He alone reveals the Father. The One inviting weary sinners to come is the only One who can reconcile us to God.**

Hear me! I am convinced that self-reliance is one of the greatest burdens a person can carry. Trusting in our own goodness, morality, religion, heritage, or ability to make ourselves right with God is a burden we were never meant to carry. Scripture teaches that apart from Christ we were helpless, dead in our sins, and enemies of God (Romans 5; Ephesians 2). Yet self-reliance whispers, "Just try harder. Be better." It only leaves us weary and still separated from God. Some

of us are spiritually exhausted this morning because we're carrying a yoke fashioned by our pride, religion, maybe family expectations, or tradition. But Jesus stands before us with outstretched arms, saying, "Come to me." He does not simply remove our burden; He gives us His yoke—a yoke of gracious obedience instead of striving. It is light because He has already carried the heaviest burden of all: the penalty for our sin upon the cross. So, let me ask you: What yoke are you wearing this morning? Are you still trying to carry the impossible burden of saving yourself, or have you surrendered to Christ and found the rest that only He can give?

I pray that none of us stand under any of these indictments. If you do, Jesus' offer still stands. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.