

“CHRIST’S WARNING REGARDING UNBELIEF”

January 7, 2018

Matthew 11:1-30

“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.” Matthew 11:21, 22

This text is part of Matthew’s report regarding Jesus’ response to those who rejected His and John the Baptist’s ministries. In this message we notice four points of instruction:

1. The necessity of repentance

- A. The Pharisee & the Publican (Luke 18:9-14)
- B. Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)
- C. Tower of Siloam (Luke 13:1-5)
- D. Departures from Jesus’ Teaching

2. The seriousness of refusing to believe divine truth

- A. Refusal to repent is an expression of unbelief.
- B. Tyre’s and Sidon’s unbelief was evident in that they did not repent.
- C. Chorazin’s and Bethsaida’s unbelief was in spite of Christ’s miraculous confirmations.
- D. Unbelief in the face of confirmed truth will meet with severest judgment.
- E. Unbelievers today have greater guilt than Chorazin and Bethsaida!

3. The certainty and severity of judgment

- A. The testimony of Conscience (Romans 1:18-21)
- B. The testimony of Christ (Matthew 13:42, 50; 18:8, 9; Luke 16:9-31)
- C. The cry of the Condemned (Luke 16:23, 24)

4. The sovereignty of God in dispensing truth

- A. Knowing what would bring Tyre and Sidon to repentance, Christ did not provide it.
- B. Those who have access to God’s truth, have it only by God’s merciful provision.
- C. Rejection of God-revealed truth is rejection of God Himself.
- D. Enlarged knowledge results in enlarged guilt.