

Sermon Reflections

Rest for Your Souls (Matthew 11:20-30)

Summary: Come and remain under Christ's rule; only there will your soul find rest.

Find Rest for Your Souls

1. Repent from Your Sins (vv. 20-24)

- Jesus' condemnation of the many Jewish cities and comparisons to the Gentile cities is a stark reminder that knowing about Jesus is no guarantee that you will avoid judgment. What is the difference between simply knowing about Jesus and having saving faith in Him? Does this seem like a danger in America at large? What about American churches?
- How do you think residents of Bethsaida would have felt hearing Jesus' message of judgment? How about the reaction in Tyre? What do you think a person from Jerusalem (unmentioned in this passage) would have thought about these condemnations toward the Galilean and pagan cities?
- Knowing that Jesus did not immediately judge these cities, what should have been the appropriate response from the hearers in those cities? What keeps people from repenting despite the clear teaching of Christ? How do we live a life of ongoing repentance from sin?

2. Receive and Rejoice in God's Will (vv. 25-27)

- God does not limit salvation to the wise. In fact, Jesus indicates that salvation is revealed to the unexpected, even those like children. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. How does Paul's message compare to that of Jesus here in Matthew? What does Paul conclude should be our response to these things?
- Jesus is clear that He is the one who reveals the Father. One cannot be made alive apart from the calling of Christ. What should be the appropriate response to rightly understanding God's sovereignty in salvation? What are some of the dangers if we misinterpret this?

3. Respond to Christ's Invitation (vv. 28-30)

- In verse 28, Christ specifically calls those who labor and are heavy laden. Do you labor? Are you heavy laden? Is everyone heavy laden? What do you say to someone (e.g. an unbeliever) who claims to have no burdens?
- Jesus says He is gentle and lowly in heart. What does this have to do with His yoke and teaching?
- Is your soul restful in Christ? What does Jesus say we should do to find rest for our souls? What are some ways you can enjoy and savor this rest in Christ amid the distractions of the world?