

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 6 December 2015..... Matthew 03.....The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December..... Matthew 01..... The Genealogy of Christ
- 3) 20 December..... Matthew 02..... The Magi
- 4) 27 December..... Matthew 04..... The Temptation of Jesus
- 5) 03 January 2016..... Matthew 05:1-16..... The Sermon on the Mount
- 6) 10 January..... Matthew 06..... Benevolence Giving
- 7) 17 January..... Matthew 05:17-45..... Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January..... Matthew 07..... Judging Others
- 9) 31 January..... Matthew 08..... More Miracles
- 10) 07 February..... Matthew 09-10.....and More Miracles
- 11) 14 February..... Matthew 11.....Tough Questions**
- 12) 21 February..... Matthew 12..... Time to Pick a Fight
- 13) 28 February..... Matthew 13..... More Parables

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus continued teaching and preaching and working most of his healings & miracles in unrepentant towns of all places

Passage	Comments
Matthew 11:1-6	<p>John the Baptist Has Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was John the Baptist exhibiting doubt about Jesus being the expected one? Probably so. Wouldn't we all? • What proof did Jesus provide to John that He was the Expected One? Did Jesus provide verbal confirmation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jesus provided confirmation of Scripture. Should we expect anything more or less when we seek proof? ♦ In essence, John's disciples reported back how the healings they saw lined up to Scripture, confirming that Jesus was the "Expected One".....Isaiah 35:4-6
11:7-15	<p>John The Baptist → Prophet → Messenger → Elijah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What made John the Baptist (JTB) so great? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ After all, he never worked one healing or miracle ♦ All he did was preach and baptize and walk around in strange clothes eating strange food ♦ ...and he ended up in jail because he disagreed with the alternative lifestyles of the rich and famous • v11. What would make someone greater than JTB? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Would one need to work more works or dress more bizarre or eat even stranger cuisine? ♦ Consider this. JTB lost his head over the issue of marriage. Are we willing to put our careers or lives on the line to speak up what is right in God's eyes? ♦ Do we have ears to hear and will we be bold?
11:16-19	<p>We Can Never Please Some People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When dealing with fools we enter in a no-win situation (we're damned if we do or don't)Prov 26:4,5; 29:9 • How is wisdom vindicated by her deeds or children? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ It takes time. Jesus took 3 years for some wisdom to sink in & he worked countless wonders for reflection
11:20-24	<p>Unrepentant Recipients of Healings and Miracles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall that Sodom was utterly destroyedGenesis 19 ...and history tells us Alexander the Great destroyed Tyre and Sidon c. 332 BC, and this was in fulfillment of biblical prophecy.....Jeremiah 47 • Jesus made a remarkable statement that these cities, which practiced sexual perversion, idolatry, and/or sought destruction of Israel, would not have been destroyed if the wonders He performed in Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum were done in them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Begs the questions why God didn't perform similar wonders in those destroyed cities and why He isn't performing similar wonders today to save other cities ♦ The only answer that seems reasonable, is His ways are not our waysIsaiah 55:8

Passage	Comments
11:25-27	<p>Hidden Mysteries Saved For Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v25. What mysteries have been hidden from the "wise and intelligent" and revealed to God's humbled ones? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Salvation is available to all; God is Triune in nature; ♦ The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy.....Romans 14:17
11:28-30	<p>My Yoke is Easy and My Burden is Light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes a person weary? <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult people? <input type="checkbox"/> Hard work? <input type="checkbox"/> Long hours? <input type="checkbox"/> Sinful behavior? <input type="checkbox"/> Trying circumstances? <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ • What is this "rest" promised by Christ? <input type="checkbox"/> All play? <input type="checkbox"/> An easy life with no turmoil? <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of money? <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult people removed? <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ • If we can fix what is wearying us, why do we need Christ? If we cannot fix what is wearying us, what is keeping us from seeking and obeying Christ NOW? • v30. What is His Rest, His Yoke and Burden, and how easy is His Yoke and how light is His Burden? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ His Yoke is what should control our life and direct our steps. IOW, when we obey His word (i.e., speak well, think well, do well) God is then able to guide us ♦ His Burden is enduring pain inflicted by others. "If they hate Me, they will hate you"..... John 15:18-20 ♦ His Rest is being freed from spiritual turmoil which tears us down physically, mentally, and emotionally. Once we start obeying Him, God starts liberating us. ♦ Consider this. His Yoke is easy and Burden light – compared to what? Compared to the self-inflicted damage we can do to ourselves when we disobey (e.g., damaged relationships, undisciplined ways)

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Like John the Baptist we can go through periods of doubt. Is Christ everything He promised to be? If Christ didn't do anything to stop JTB, the greatest in the Kingdom, from being beheaded, can we expect the same? What would give us proof of His Lordship?
- If we need proof outside of Scripture we are on shaky ground. Our faith should be rooted solely in Scripture. That's all JTB needed to faithfully endure to the end – Trust in God's word, not experiences.

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 12. The Lord of the Sabbath continues to heal everyone of everything to fulfill Scripture and to tick off the establishment who ask for one more sign to prove His deity

Your Plan for Your Life



God's Plan for Your Life

