

# Sermon Notes – January 20, 2019

## Review

- ⇒ Matthew presents Jesus as “the Christ” – the anointed One, the long-awaited & often-promised Messiah, and as “the Son of David” – the Davidic King promised in II Samuel 7.
- ⇒ We’ve seen that the ministry of Jesus is a preview of a renewed creation and restored humanity that will only have its full realization in Christ’s future reign.
- ⇒ In last week’s text, we saw Jesus send out His twelve disciples to preach and to heal, all because He sees the “harvest” – a world full of hurting, broken, and truly lost people.

## Today’s Text: Matthew 11:1-30

Today’s preaching section begins a new section (chapters 11-13) *“held together by the rising tide of disappointment in and opposition to the kingdom of God that was resulting from Jesus’ ministry. He was not turning out to be the kind of Messiah the people had expected”* (D.A. Carson).

## What Exactly Are YOU Expecting from God?

(11:2-19)

- ⇒ John the Baptist is the last of the OT \_\_\_\_\_, and the “fore-runner” of Messiah Jesus. His announcement of “Behold, the Lamb of God” (John 1:29) comes with great enthusiasm, and his clear expectation (Matthew 3:11-12) is that Jesus will continue John’s fiery preaching, but instead... (9:10); perhaps John has Malachi 3 in mind.
- ⇒ Is it too much to expect that the One who heals the sick & raises the dead would get a friend out of prison (4:12), at least before he gets his \_\_\_\_\_ (14:1-12)?
- ⇒ John the Baptist – languishing in prison – does know the prophecies of the coming Messiah, but like MANY today, he is confused about \_\_\_\_\_ those kingdom prophecies will be fulfilled.
- ⇒ Theologian Michael Vlach notes in this text the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom (11:14) and the grief Christ expressed

later when that offer is fully and finally rejected (23:37-39; also Luke 19:41-44).

- ⇒ Today we still live in a \_\_\_\_\_ world that longs for a future day of redemption, a day that is sure, but not here yet – Romans 8:18-23; II Corinthians 1:8-9; I Peter 4:12-13.

## What Does It Take for You to Repent?

(11:20-24)

- ⇒ Jesus does amazing miracles in city after city, but time after time, people \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ more. Likely, they’re expecting (“demanding”) a conquering Messiah and aren’t about to settle for anything different.
- ⇒ In Christ, God is graciously giving these ancient cities opportunity to repent. In this case, Christ does mighty works. In other settings – like Jonah – God sends a \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness; either way, God holds them and us \_\_\_\_\_ to respond to Him.

## Response to God’s Word

(11:25-30)

- ⇒ Do you need to repent of your unrealistic expectations of God? Are you expecting Him to be something and do things for you that He never promises to be and do?
- ⇒ Do you hear Jesus’ call to you? “Come to me...I will give you rest.” This is a call for believer and unbeliever alike. Why would you not come?

Book References (a reference does not equal an unqualified endorsement):

- “The Surprising Grace of Disappointment,” by John Koessler
- “Disappointment with God,” by Philip Yancey
- “Does Grace Grow Best in Winter?” by Ligon Duncan

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

**Warning: This could require some vulnerability!**

Think about your prayer life for a moment. What things have you prayed about the LONGEST or the STRONGEST – meaning that so far, God has not granted your request? How are you doing with that?

## Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the entire text (Matthew 11:1-30) and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was it about?
2. Think about John the Baptist sitting in prison – possibly for as long as a year at this point. What might he have been thinking as he heard reports about Jesus’ ministry? How is that similar to how we feel when we hear of God’s amazing provisions or dealings with others...and not us? How do we explain that?
3. Moving from the personal to worldview for a moment. Some people want a Jesus who will fix the economy or restrain societal sins or feed the hungry or bring about world peace. We want a Jesus who will rebuke sins (mostly in other people) and keep us from getting sick or dying. Is anything wrong with this picture?
4. In 11:20-24 Jesus rebukes some ancient cities that didn’t repent when they saw His mighty works. How do you think the northwest would fare if Jesus did some amazing things right here in OUR backyard?

## Taking It Further & Taking It Home

5. Are you “weary” (i.e. tired as a result of carrying a heavy load) or “heavy-laden” (“carrying more than a person might reasonably be expected to carry for far too long”)? Jesus calls you to come to Him! So do that...COME to Him with your weariness and your heavy heart. Hand your heavy load to Him and then TRUST Him to carry it – that means that you’ll take your hands off and trust Him to do what is right. To “rest” in Christ is to trust Him...so REST in Him today.

## Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday Worship: January 27, 2019

“In Christ, Mercy & Justice Are Friends”

(Matthew 12:1-21)

Pastor Tyler Pease

**Answer Key:** ▪ prophets ▪ head cut off ▪ when ▪ genuine offer ▪ broken ▪ doubt ▪ expect ▪ preacher ▪ accountable ▪