

If You Can't
Stand Heat,
You Had Better
Live Right!

Matthew 11:20-24



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Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of His miracles had been performed, because they did not repent.

“Woe to you Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.”

Matthew
11:20-24

And you Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.

But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.

Jesus Clarifies Several Issues About The Day of Judgment in These Verses That We Need To Know

#1 Jesus Says That There Will Be A Judgment

- Judgment Day is a statement of fact by Jesus and not just a “scare tactic.” Other verses point to it:

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth Him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge Him in the last day.

John 12:48

- We won't “get a pass” or “be excused,” on judgment day because we are nice people. It's a mandatory appointment; Hebrews 9:27, “*And as it is appointed unto man*”
- Our own words and actions will be brought before us

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- Listen to John's awesome description of Judgment Day:

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Revelation 20:12

- Jesus even says that our conversations will be brought into account: Matthew 12:36

.... "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned."

#2 There Will Be Degrees of Punishment

- Jesus says that the people who lived in Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom, will be punished for their wicked actions; **BUT** their punishment ***will not be as terrible*** as the privileged cities of Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida

Why?

- These cities were where Jesus spent much of His ministry

Some have called these 3 cities, “The Evangelical Triangle;” God on Earth spent a lot of time there

- Jesus is teaching His disciples, “The Law of Exposure and Accountability” meaning, if you are exposed to more, you will be held accountable for more (blessings, spiritual information, providential arrangements)

Questions Then Arise About Our Individual Exposure

- Are we living more like “the exposed or the unexposed?”
- Isn't God aware of the freedoms, privileges, and opportunities we have in this country at this time in our lives?
- Isn't God aware of the exposure that we have to His word and the freedom we have to obey him, as opposed to other countries where religious freedom is considered as, “blasphemy to their government” and is punishable with imprisonment?
- Do we take advantage of, or take for granted, the exposure God gives to us?

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#3 The Sin of Indifference Is Worse Than The Being Unexposed!

- **Jesus addresses a peculiar form of unbelief here in Matt.**
- **He says that there were people in three cities**
 - **That had witnessed His messages**
 - **That had seen numerous miracles**
 - **That had praised Him for His mighty works in their lives**

Yet They Were Indifferent to His Presence!

They Didn't Attack Him or Drive Him Away!

They Simply Did Nothing!

They Were Still Not Moved to Change Their Lives!

#4 God Takes Indifference to His Son, Jesus Christ, Personally!

- Listen to God's argument concerning a person blessed with the knowledge of God, but decides to be indifferent: Hebrews 10:28-31

Anyone who has rejected Moses' law died without mercy on the testimony of two of three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, would he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord, And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

- It has always been striking to me that this warning follows Heb. 10:25:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

The Sin of Indifference!

#5 God's Judgment Will Be Based On His Perfect Knowledge

- **The text in Matthew suggest that God's judgment of us will take into account not only what we do or don't do (works), but also what would have been done by others if they were given the same exposure or circumstances we have been given**
Ex. Sodom's exposure as opposed to Capernaum's
Family member/friend as opposed to you/me

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:13



“Today if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts”

Hebrews 3:15

Your exposure to God’s truths will be weighed heavily!

If Judgment Day Began Tomorrow, Are You Ready Today?

— Understand This:

**We Are Saved By His Grace
and His Mercy**

But

**Don't Take Either
for Granted!**

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38