

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
**JESUS
IS KING**



The Burden of Jesus

Text: Matthew 11:20-30

1. Jesus Rebukes Unrepentance - Matthew 11:20-24

Because **most of His mighty works** were done in these cities, they experienced a greater light, which also required a greater accountability.

This principle – greater light means greater responsibility – means that the western world has a tremendous accountability before God. The west has had an access to the gospel that no other society has, yet remains in desperate need of repentance.

It will be more tolerable: When Jesus said that **it will be more tolerable** for certain cities in the day of judgment, He implied that there are in fact different degrees of judgment. Some will be punished more severely in the final judgment than others.

These cities did not attack Jesus Christ; they did not drive him from their gates; they did not seek to crucify him; they simply

disregarded him. Neglect and apathy can kill as much as persecution can.

2. Jesus Praises the Repentant - Matthew 11:25-27

We sense some *joy* in Jesus' communication with His Father. The persons of the Trinity speak and commune with each other with joy.

Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: Jesus was happy that God had chosen the unlikely – seen by the world as **babes** – to respond to His message of the kingdom.

3. Jesus' invitation - Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus showed His authority when He says **come unto Me**. This invitation is unthinkable in the mouth of anyone else but God, and woe to the men who call people to themselves instead of to Jesus!

“*Come*’; Jesus doesn’t push people away; he calls them to himself. His favorite word is ‘Come.’ Not, go to Moses – ‘Come unto me.’ To Jesus we must come, by faith. Not to doctrine, ordinance, or ministry; but to the personal Saviour.”

All ye that labour and are heavy laden: Jesus calls those who were burdened. He called those who sensed they must come to Him to relieve their need instead of living in self-sufficiency. **labor** implies the burdens we take on ourselves, and **heavy laden** implies the burdens others put upon us.

Heavy laden suggests the same thought as Matthew 23:4, where Jesus spoke against the religious leaders of His day as those who *bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders;*

Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me: Jesus made a wonderful offer, inviting us to **take My yoke upon you and learn from Me**. We must come as disciples to learn, willing to be guided by His yoke – not merely to receive something.

And ye shall find rest unto your souls: Jesus described His gift to His followers as **rest for your soul**. This a gift unlike any other – both powerful and profound – should be considered the birthright of those who come to Jesus and are His followers.

Something is wrong if we don't experience **rest for our souls**.

My yoke is easy and My burden is light: Jesus summarized this wonderful call with this assurance.

The **yoke is easy** and the **burden is light** because *He bears it with us*.

Alone, it might be unbearable; but with Jesus it is **easy** and **light**.

This isn't a call to a lazy or indulgent life. There is still a **yoke** to bear and **burden** to carry. Yet with and in Jesus, they are easy and light.



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What does the phrase, "It shall be more tolerable..." imply?
2. Does our culture have a greater accountability before God because of the light we have experienced? Explain one of that light.

3. What does it mean that Jesus revealed “these things” unto babes? What is a babe?
4. What is the difference between labour and heavy laden?
5. Do you experience rest for your soul in your Christian journey?
6. What is the yoke of Jesus?
7. What makes the yoke of Jesus light and easy?