Matthew
Chapter 11



As you prepare for this week's study, begin by praying and asking God to open your heart and mind to understand the truths He has for you this week. Then read this week's chapter, Matthew 11. As you read through the entire chapter, what are your first impressions? What stands out to you?

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Mission 119: Search Matthew and listen to the commentary for Matthew 11-12.

Day 1 – More Than a Prophet

Matthew 11:1-15

1) Where was John when he sent a message to Jesus? (v.2)

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2) What was the question John asked Jesus? (v.3)

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3) What characteristics did the people in verse 5 have in common?

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4) **Who did Jesus say was blessed? (v.6) What do you think this meant?

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5) To whom was Jesus speaking in verse 7?

6) In verses 7 and 8, Jesus asked a few rhetorical questions to challenge the expectations the people had of John the Baptist. What two things did Jesus say the people expected John to be?

7) Luke 7:29-30 gave insight into how the crowd who heard Jesus responded. Who listened and responded to the words of Jesus? Who rejected His words?

8) Read Luke 1:14-17. Summarize what was spoken over John the Baptist by an angel before he was born. Who did the angel say he would go "in the spirit and power of"?

9) In the first part of verse 11, who did Jesus say was greater than John the Baptist? Who did He say was greater in the second half of verse 11?

10) Read Luke 7:18-35 and look for ways it paralleled Matthew 11:1-19. What details in Luke's account of this story were not in Matthew's?

Day 2 – My Yoke Is Easy

Matthew 11:16-30

1) In the metaphor Jesus gave, what was amiss with the children in the marketplace? (v.16-17)

2) Contrast what people said about the comings of John the Baptist and Jesus. (v.18-19)

3) How did this relate to the metaphor of the children in the marketplace given in verses 16 and 17?

4) Which three towns did Jesus denounce? (v.20-21, 23)

5) What did these three towns have that made them more accountable to repent than Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom? (v.21,23)

6) What was special about the city of Capernaum in Jesus' ministry? Read Matthew 4:13.

7) The only recorded miracle in Bethsaida was recorded in Mark 8:22-26. What miracle took place there? Who was involved?

8) Matthew 11:20 said most of Jesus' miracles were done in Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum but only a few were found in Scripture. What did John 21:25 remind us about this?

9) In verse 25, from what group of people did Jesus say "these things" are hidden? To which group were they revealed?

10) **Is there anything in this chapter new to you?

Day 3 - Connecting the Dots…

1) The events Jesus described in Matthew 11:5 were not only miracles but also were fulfillments of Old Testament prophecies that proved Jesus' identity as the Messiah. Read these passages in Isaiah and write down promised miracles that Jesus fulfilled.

   a) Isaiah 26:19

   b) Isaiah 35:5-6

   c) Isaiah 53:4

d) Isaiah 61:1 _____

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2) The events described in verse 5 were also miracles that took place during the ministry of Jesus. Read the following passages and describe the miracle in each. How did witnesses react to each miracle?

a) Mark 7:37 _____

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b) Luke 7:14-16 _____

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c) Luke 17:14-16 _____

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d) John 9:6-9 _____

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3) In Matthew 11:10, Jesus quoted Malachi 3:1a to describe John the Baptist. Read the rest of Malachi 3:1. What was prophesied to happen after the messenger came?

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4) Read Malachi 4:5-6. How did John the Baptist fulfill this prophecy?

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5) What was different about John from all the other prophets?

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6) The imagery of a yoke was often used throughout Scripture to symbolize slavery, toil, and bondage. Read Acts 15:5,10. What yoke were the Pharisees trying to put onto new Gentile believers?

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7) What did Paul say about the heavy yoke that came with trying to fulfill the law of Moses in Romans 3:20?

8) Understanding the hopelessness that came from trying to keep the law of Moses, how do you think Jesus' promise of an easy yoke resonated with the Jews and the Gentiles?

Day 4 – Walking the Way of Jesus

Scholars hold a variety of opinions as to why John posed his question of Jesus in verse 3: Was John seeking assurance Jesus was truly the Messiah? Was he confused after being in prison for so long? Did he expect Christ to bring political deliverance?

1) What was surprising about how Jesus responded to John's question? From what Jesus said about John in this chapter, how would you describe how Jesus viewed John?

2) In verses 16 and 17, Jesus used a metaphor to describe the generation of that day. Explain what He was trying to say about that generation. How does this apply to the generations of the world today?

3) **Through the woes given in verses 20-24, Jesus made it clear those who have witnessed the power of God bear more responsibility to respond to Him. How have you witnessed the power of God in your life? What responsibility do you have to respond? Read Luke 12:48 and Matthew 25:14-30 for further study.

4) Who did Jesus invite to Himself in verse 28? What did He promise to those who came to Him?

5) **In verses 28 and 29, Jesus promised spiritual rest for the souls of those who came to Him. What are other ways that we can enter into the peace and rest God has for us? See the following verses:

   a) Isaiah 58:13-14

   b) Psalm 4:8

   c) Psalm 46:10

   d) Philippians 4:6-7

6) **In verse 29, Jesus described Himself as "gentle and humble in heart." This was the only time in Scripture Jesus specifically described Himself and His personality. What does this teach us about our Savior's heart? How is the Lord asking you to become more "gentle and humble in heart"?

7) **What key point did you learn this week about walking the way of Jesus?

Day 5 - What Do You Think?

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Today, read chapter 11 with a seeking posture, and be attentive to where God is forming your heart, reordering your priorities, and inviting you into His kingdom life. As you do, take time to reflect on how God's living Word is at work in your life.

Use the questions below to notice where you sense His invitation, conviction, or encouragement. You do not need to answer every question each week. Instead, choose two or three that stand out and spend time with them. Pay attention to where God is leading you toward deeper trust, understanding, and transformation.

1) **What part of God's redemptive story became larger, stranger, or more beautiful after studying this chapter?

2) **What assumptions from this passage quietly challenge in your life? (ideas about identity, comfort, control, security, significance, etc.)

3) **Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you the hero, someone in the crowd, or someone in need of the grace being revealed?

4) What part of God's kingdom seemed upside-down in this passage compared to the kingdom of this world?

5) Did any mystery remain unresolved after reading this chapter? Rather than solving it, how might living with that mystery deepen your trust in God?

6) What invitation did Jesus extend here to experience transformation in your life?

7) If we lived out the truths we've read about in this chapter in our families, workplaces, churches, and neighborhood - what might become more beautiful about our community? What might become uncomfortable?