

Finding Jesus in Matthew's gospel

Chapter 11:20-30 ***Back to Basics***

David Hillson
Hope Church, 16 August 2009



1

Where are we now?



BLOCK	NARRATIVE	DISCOURSE	TOPIC	END
Introduction	1-2	-	Infancy stories	-
1	3-4	5-7	Sermon on the Mount	7:28
2	8-9	10	Mission instructions	11:1
3	11-12	13	The kingdom of God	13:53
4	14-17	18	Community	19:1
5	19-22	23-25	Last days	26:1
Conclusion	26-28	-	Passion & resurrection	-

Key question for chapters 11-13:

What does this tell us about God's kingdom?

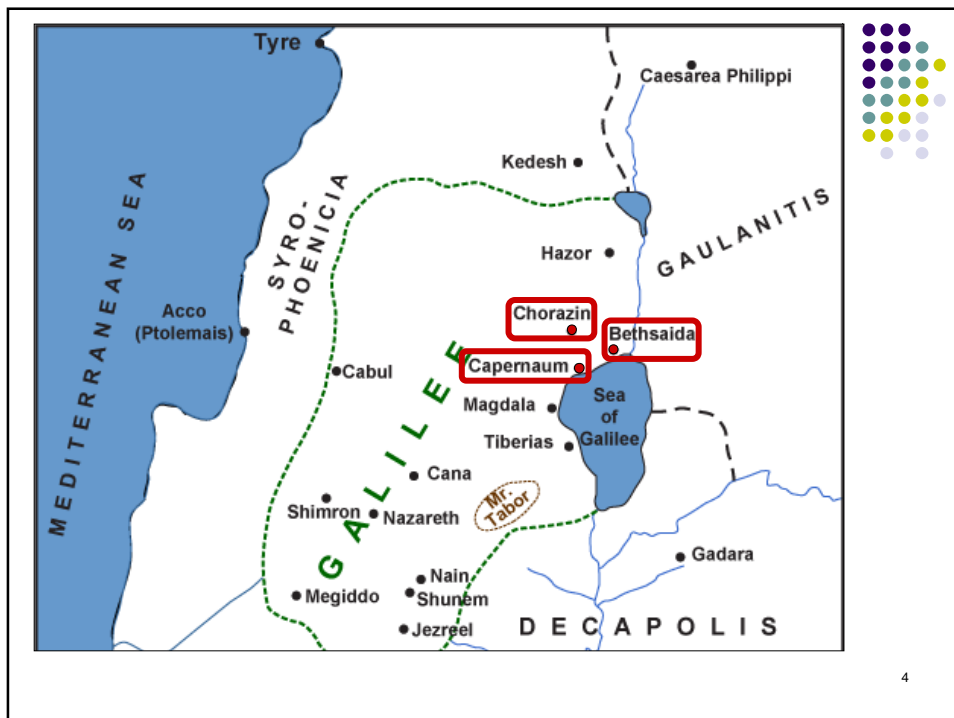
2

Matthew 11:20-24 (NIV)



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

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! 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 judgement than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. 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 judgement than for you.”³



4

Matthew 11:25-27 (NIV)



At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

5

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

6

Three sections: progression

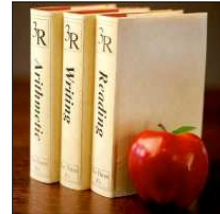


- Keyword in verses 20-24 is **Repent**
- Keyword in verses 25-27 is **Revealed**
- Keyword in verses 28-30 is **Rest**



Back to basics

These 3 Rs are basic to Christian experience



Section 1: Repentance (20-24)



- Based in Capernaum (Matthew 9:1), Jesus went to surrounding towns and did miracles
- He expected a response:
 - They should have **repented**, but they didn't
- It matters:
 - Not repenting brings **judgement**
 - Compare with Tyre, Sidon, Sodom – notorious for wickedness, spiritual pride, rejection of God

Section 1: Repentance (20-24)



- Questions of repentance:

- What?
- From what?
- To what?
- So what?



- Why is repentance **appropriate response** to encountering Jesus?

9

Section 1: Repentance (20-24)



- **Key question:**

- What does this tell us about God's kingdom?

***Repentance is the gateway
into the kingdom of God***

- Still true today – need to change thinking

10

Section 2: Revelation (25-27)



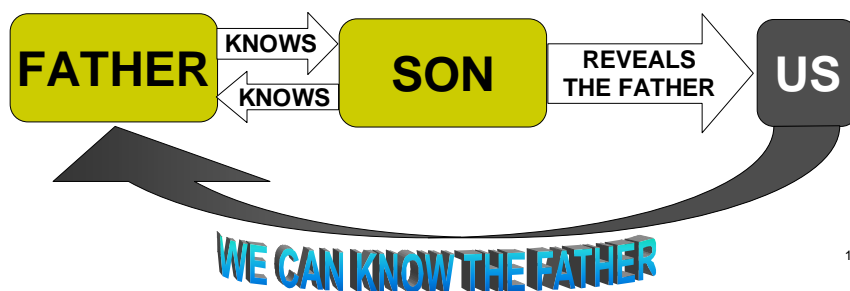
- Not everything is obvious or open
- God's kingdom is "**hidden** from wise & learned" but "**revealed** to little children"
 - Reason and experience is insufficient
 - Need to be humble, trusting, dependent
 - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 - 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
- Revelation is God's sovereign act
 - "your good pleasure ... he chooses to reveal"

11

Section 2: Revelation (25-27)



- What has been revealed?
 - Verse 27 – What is God really like?
 - Open secret (John 14:6-11)
 - "Knows" = επιγνωσκω = personal knowledge based on relationship, recognise



12

Section 2: Revelation (25-27)



- Key question:
 - What does this tell us about God's kingdom?
- Personal knowledge of Father God is at the heart of the kingdom, revealed through Jesus***
- Note the **exclusive** and **unique** role of Jesus

13

Section 3: Rest (28-30)



- “Promise text”
 - *“Come to Jesus and forget all your problems”*
- Contrast
 - *“weary & burdened”* vs *“rest”*
 - Which **am I** ?!

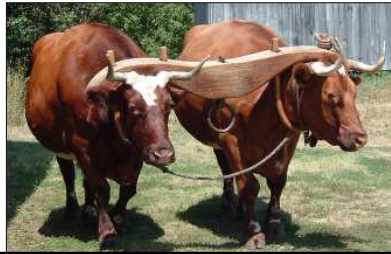


14

Section 3: Rest (28-30)



- Deliberate comparison using “yoke”
- Pharisees: “**The yoke of the law** is glorious obedience to God which frees man from his obligations to the world and gives rest and peace of mind”
- Jesus: “heavy burdens, hard to bear” (Matt 23:4)
- Jesus offers another yoke:
 - “**Learn from me...
...my yoke is easy and
my burden is light**”



Section 3: Rest (28-30)



- Yoked with Jesus
 - Co-workers (1 Corinthians 3:9)
 - Shared tasks, common direction
 - Constant correction
- How does this bring “rest for your souls”?
- Do what pleases God ...
 - ... not in our own strength
 - ... relying on Jesus
 - ... resting in his work



Section 3: Rest (28-30)



- **“Rest for your souls”**
- Rest from what?
 - Jesus contrasted with **religiosity** of Pharisees
 - ⇒ requirement to perform, fear of failure
 - People today are **restless** – lack of meaning and purpose, loss of value, unclear boundaries, supremacy of self...
 - Knowing Jesus answers these questions



Section 3: Rest (28-30)



- **Key question:**
 - What does this tell us about God’s kingdom?

***Relying on Jesus brings
freedom in the kingdom of God***
- How? *“Learn from me ... gentle & humble in heart”*
 - Connecting your life with Jesus and being like him brings release and rest

18



And finally...

- **Repentance** ⇒ **Revelation** ⇒ **Rest**

- The way into God's kingdom
- Repeated themes of the Christian life

These 3 Rs are basic to Christian experience

