

Rest for the Oppressed
Matthew 11:20-29



Turn to God And Be Saved

- **Isaiah 45:22** - “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

Refusing to Repent

- **Matthew 11:20** - ²⁰ Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.

REPENTANCE vs REBELLION

- **Repentance** - to turn from evil, and to turn to the good.
- Most critical is the idea of returning to God, or turning away from evil.
- Confession of sins.
- Placing trust in the Lord, turning away from all evil and ungodliness. Each person was to "turn from his wicked evil way.

REPENTANCE vs REBELLION

- **2 Chronicles 7:14** - ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
- **2 Corinthians 7:10** - ¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

REBELLION

- **Isaiah 30:1** - “Ah, stubborn children,” declares the Lord, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;

REBELLION

- **Hebrews 3:15-18** - ¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Woe To You

- **Matthew 11:21** - ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

REPENTANCE – SACK CLOTH AND ASHES

- **1 Kings 20:29-31** - ²⁹ And they encamped opposite one another seven days. Then on the seventh day the battle was joined. And the people of Israel struck down of the Syrians 100,000 foot soldiers in one day. ³⁰ And the rest fled into the city of Aphek, and the wall fell upon 27,000 men who were left.

Ben-hadad also fled and entered an inner chamber in the city. ³¹ And his servants said to him, “Behold now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes on our heads and go out to the king of Israel. Perhaps he will spare your life.

REPENTANCE – SACK CLOTH AND ASHES

- **Jonah 3:6-9** - ⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

Patience Endurance

- **Revelation 3:10-11** - ¹⁰ Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. (Church at Philadelphia)
- Stand Fast – Patient in Oppression – God Will Deliver You

Day of Judgement

- **Matthew 11:22-24** - ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

Nations Who Do Not Fear the Lord

- **Isaiah 1:23** - Your princes are rebels
and companions of thieves.
Everyone loves a bribe
and runs after gifts.
They do not bring justice to the fatherless,
and the widow's cause does not come to them.

Nations Who Do Not Fear the Lord

- **Isaiah 3:8-9** - For Jerusalem has stumbled,
and Judah has fallen,
because their speech and their deeds are against the Lord,
defying his glorious presence.
 - ⁹ For the look on their faces bears witness against them;
they proclaim their sin like Sodom;
they do not hide it.
- Woe to them!
For they have brought evil on themselves.

Nations Who Do Not Fear the Lord

- **Isaiah 5:20-21** - Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!
²¹ Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
and shrewd in their own sight!

**"FIRST WE OVERLOOK EVIL.
THEN WE PERMIT EVIL.
THEN WE LEGALIZE EVIL.
THEN WE PROMOTE EVIL.
THEN WE CELEBRATE EVIL.
THEN WE PERSECUTE THOSE WHO
STILL CALL IT EVIL."**



**"WOE UNTO THEM WHO CALL EVIL,
GOOD, AND GOOD, EVIL!"**

ISAIAH 5:20

Appear Before the Judgement Seat

- Clearly there will be a Day of Accountability for all People
- **2 Corinthians 5:10** - ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

The Lord Will Rescue Me

- Where will Christians turn to find rest and peace in the midst of oppression?
- **2 Timothy 4:18** - ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Shine Your Light for Jesus

- Despite oppression and hostility we are to shine brightly in the world for Jesus.
- **Philippians 2:14-16** - ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

You Will Find Rest

- **Matthew 11:27-30** - ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

No Jesus, No Peace

Know Jesus, Know Peace

Strive to Enter the Rest

- **Hebrews 4:9-13** - ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Peace of God

- **Philippians 4:4-9** - ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.