

FBC POWELL, 3-2-08 PM
"RESPONSES TO JESUS"
MATTHEW 11:16-30
(#46 in Series, "Verse by Verse through Matthew")

John 14:6 (NKJV) "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

I. The Crowds Respond (vv. 16-19)

"The plain fact is that when people do not want to listen to the truth, they will easily enough find an excuse for not listening. They do not even try to be consistent in their criticism. They'll criticize the same person and the same institution from quite opposite grounds and reasons. If people are determined to make no response, they will remain stubbornly and sullenly unresponsive no matter what invitation is made to them."

—William Barclay

"It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbles or how the doer of deeds might have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood; who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

—Theodore Roosevelt

II. The Cities Respond (vv. 20-24)

Some Principles About Judgment in the Scriptures:

A. There Are Degrees of Punishment in Judgment

Revelation 20:12b (NKJV) "The dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

B. The Amount of Truth Rejected Determines the Degree of Judgment

C. God Does Not Owe Salvation to Anyone

III. How Will You Respond? (vv. 25-30)

A. Humility (vv. 25-26)

Acts 4:13 (NKJV) "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."

Matthew 18:3 (NKJV) "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV) “For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.’”

B. Revelation (v. 27)

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV) “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

C. Repentance and Faith (v. 28)

John 6:35 (NKJV) “And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”

John 7:37b (NKJV) “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”

D. Empowered Service (vv. 29-30)

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV) “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which* was with me.”

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV) “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”

“The yoke that He gives is tailor-made. He knows exactly how we feel, and He knows just what we can take. He says, ‘I am going to be yoked with you. Together we are going to teach that Sunday school class. Together we are going to raise those precious children. Together we are going to pastor that church or work in that mission field.’ We are yoked with the Lord Jesus. This means we can carry burdens and still have rest in our hearts.”

—Warren Weirsbe