

Unrepentance: the bridges we burn

Matthew 11:20-30

Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me . . . I bring near my righteousness, it is not far off; and My salvation will not delay. And I will grant salvation in Zion, and My glory for Israel.

Isaiah 46:9,13

Jesus' judgment of the cities he visited, v.20-24.

- Three cities on the northern shore of Galilee
 - **Chorazin:** almost unknown had it not been for this mention in the Gospels. Its existence has been established historically, but its exact former location is not known.
 - **Bethsaida:** near Capernaum, and the home of Peter, Andrew, and Philip, and possibly James, John, and Matthew.
 - **Capernaum:** for awhile the home of Jesus after the death of John the Baptist.
- The condemnation of these cities.
 - Chorazin and Bethsaida had witnessed the great miracles of Jesus, had heard the Sermon on the Mount, and had many opportunities to observe the life and piety of Jesus. Yet they rejected him and his message, for which Jesus condemned them to a worse fate than Tyre and Sidon.
 - Capernaum, another city that personally witnessed Jesus' life, and because of its extreme arrogance judged to a worse fate than Sodom.
 - The ref. in v.23, *will not be exalted to heaven, will you?* in Isaiah 14:13 connects the arrogance of Capernaum to that of Babylon. _____
- This is one of those "don't go by it without further thought" passages.
 - Do we know those for whom God has done much yet still reject him? _____
 - Can we recall civilizations that have done the same? _____

From judgment to compassion, v.25-30.

- Now we hear the prayer of Jesus regarding the nature of those who can hear the message.
 - Things *hidden from the wise and intelligent, yet revealed to babes.* _____
 - Yet be cautious in hasty judgment of education and true wisdom: Jesus reference is to those who consider themselves wise. _____
- V.27: makes a clear statement of his sovereignty and authority over redemption. _____
- Now the point of the entire passage:
 - ***Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*** _____
 - When you've had enough of being in charge, and the burden of your life forces you to relinquish your claim to be the god of your own life. _____
 - ***Take my yoke and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart.*** _____
 - Humble? How is it that the Son of God can be humble? _____
 - ***You shall find rest for your souls.***
 - Its hard work being in charge. _____
 - ***My yoke is easy, and my load is light.***
 - How true, the weight of our pasts, our resentments, our selfish identities wears us down. _____
 - The ease of his yoke is joy. _____

The cosmic act of redemption is about us, mere humans, but is not to be used as an excuse for our self-exaltation. Jesus, the redeemer, said "ask me and I will ask the father, come to me you who are weary, I will give you rest, all things have been handed over to me by my father." Yet he also said "I am gentle and humble in heart." For a human to say this is arrogant and narcissistic, while for God to say it is to barely touch upon the power at his disposal. From the beginning we humans (and more than a few angels) have been trying to usurp this power, failing to understand that it can't be done. Submission to God is our greatest created ability, and here we are asked to submit.