



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Man!

Matthew 11:1-30

Message #31 of 80 – S1061

Sermon given on September 3, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Man!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 11**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Man!**
- In chapter ten Jesus called His twelve disciples and instructed them to go into the cities of the Jews and teach, preach, do miracles so that people would hear the gospel of the kingdom of God.
- Chapter 11 opens with Jesus doing the same thing.
- **Matthew 11:1**
- The focus quickly turns to John the Baptist.
- **Matthew 11:2-3**
- John was in prison because he kept telling Herod a truth he didn't want to hear.
- Some estimate that John had been in prison for about eighteen months.
- He was the first one to point people to Jesus (**John 1:29**).
- **The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"**
- Even in prison, John is pointing people to Jesus.
- He may see the handwriting on the wall and realize he wouldn't be leaving that prison alive.
- He sends his disciples to Jesus with a question – 'Are you the Coming One?' = Are you the Messiah?
- It is not that John had any questions – it was the questions his disciples needed answered.
- Every leader should be seeking to do what John does here – encourage people to follow Jesus rather than the leader.
- Jesus gives them an answer.
- **Matthew 11:4-6**

- The proof of Jesus' identify is in the lives that He has changed.
- It is the same today – the most powerful testimony of the power of the gospel is the lives it is changing (**Romans 1:16**).

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- We must be willing to tell people about the gospel, but they might not believe.
- Let the gospel change you and that is going to be harder for them to argue with.
- Jesus then gives John high praise.

- **Matthew 11:7-14**

- John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament style prophets.
- Once Jesus began His public ministry, God changed the way He would communicate to people (**Hebrews 1:1-2a**).

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...

- 'he is Elijah' – John's ministry was very much like that of Elijah.
- The Jews expected Elijah to come back as a forerunner of the Messiah based on a prophecy in Malachi 4:5.
- And then when the angel Gabriel appeared to John's father before he was conceived Gabriel said this about John (**Luke 1:17**).

He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

- John had fulfilled his ministry.
- Jesus then reminds us that this message is not for everyone.

- **Matthew 11:15**

- This is a challenge to check yourself and make sure you are listening spiritually.
- Jesus then comments on some who heard but didn't hear.

- **Matthew 11:16-19**

- Jesus turns His attention to the Jews of His generation.
- They had heard the words of the prophets, including John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets.
- They had heard the words of Christ.
- They had heard and seen enough to believe.

- This points to the reality that some will reject the light of Jesus, no matter how God reveals it to them.
- Regardless of how you live your life and express your faith, there will always be some who are offended or are unwilling to see the truth of the gospel in your life or through your words. **J.C. Ryle**
“The plain truth is that true believers must not expect unconverted men to be satisfied either with their faith or their practice.”
- Our best response is to not concern ourselves with their response.
- Our concern should be about seeking, knowing, loving, and obeying God, through the leading of the Holy Spirit and the truth found in God’s Word.
- Remind yourself that they are unsaved and cannot understand the spiritual things of God until He helps them to (**1 Corinthians 2:14**).
But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- In your heart, hand them over to God and trust Him to reach them with His love and truth.
- Jesus has some strong words for the cities where He did most of His ministry.
- **Matthew 11:20**
- ‘did not repent’ – they could have and should have repented.
- Jesus, God in the flesh, came to save sinners. He is going to rebuke these cities because they had an opportunity to believe Jesus as He is declaring salvation to them, but they chose to reject it.
- **Matthew 11:21-24**
- Jesus is comparing Jewish cities with Gentile cities.
- Tyre and Sidon were prosperous and worldly.
- Sodom and Gomorrah were terribly wicked – so wicked that God wiped them from existence.
- Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum were no worse than any other Jewish town and without question they were morally better than Tyre, Sidon, Sodom, and Gomorrah.
- Jesus is the light of the world, come to save people out of the darkness.

- When people choose not to be saved who have seen the light, or heard the gospel, they will be judged guilty because they rejected God's offer of salvation.
- People will be judged based on the amount of light they received.
- These cities, Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, had the great privilege of seeing the Light of the world.
- They were exposed to direct light of the Son of God. They were without excuse.
- As believers, we have a duty to share the gospel with others.
- Most people do not accept the gospel the first time they heard it.
- Some only need to hear it a few times to respond.
- Others might require a whole lifetime.
- How many times should you share the gospel after someone has rejected it? At least one more time.
- Jesus then points to the primary reason people don't receive Him.
- **Matthew 11:25-26**
- It is usually those who are wise in their own eyes who struggle to embrace the simplicity of the gospel.
- What is the one sin that will keep someone out of heaven? Pride!
- It is pride that causes someone to hear the gospel and reject it.
- Jesus then makes a declaration about His relationship with His Father in heaven.
- **Matthew 11:27**
- 'All things' includes our lives and all the circumstances of our lives.
- This is another place where Jesus is describing Himself as different than all other humans.
- No one knows God like the Son of God. A claim to equality with God.
- **Matthew 11:28-30**
- Who is it that can come to Jesus for salvation?
- It is those who, through the influence of the Holy Spirit recognize their great need for God.
- It is those who have wearied themselves looking for something or someone else to fill that need.

- It is those who have exhausted themselves searching for something or someone that will satisfy them.
- If you feel as though you have been laboring through this life and feel heavy laden, it is because God caused you to feel that way so that you would turn to Him for the rest you seek.
- The rest we seek is found only in Jesus.
- God's desire for our lives is that we would find rest for our souls in Jesus while we wait for Him to come and get us.
- True satisfaction cannot be found in anything in this world.
- Our souls will only be truly satisfied in Christ.
- Verse 15 said...

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

- So, the question is, 'Do you have spiritual ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to you right now?'
- David and the team are going to come up and play a song.
- As you worship along in this song, ask the Spirit to help you examine your heart.
- The rest we all seek is found in faith and obedience to Jesus and His Holy Word.
- Is your soul at rest? Is there something you are carrying that Jesus would call you to lay down at His feet?
- Today would be a great day to experience God in a fresh way.
- Let's pray and then the Team will play. **Pray!**