

“DEADLY DOUBT”

“Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Korazin! 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 judgment 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 judgment than for you.”

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
– Matthew 11:20-24,28

WE HAVE ALREADY LEARNED...

- That we sometimes doubt if God is really God!
- That doubt is common among all of us.
- That doubts usually come to us when we face difficulty times or when we feel alone.

TODAY’S STORY. A DIFFERENT KIND OF DOUBT.

1. It is clear that Jesus is very upset.

“Then Jesus began to denounce the cities... ²¹“Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.” – Matthew 11:20,21,23

2. Jesus’ reaction is due to an absence of repentance.

“Then Jesus began to denounce the cities... because they did not repent.”
– Matthew 11:20

- The cities were indifferent to Christ.
- The cities simply ignored Christ.
- The cities were not interested in Christ.

3. These “denounced” cities should have realized a better fate.

- Jesus spent a great deal of time in these places.
- Jesus taught a great deal of truth in these places.
- Jesus performed a great number of miracles in these places.

“If the miracles that were performed in you...” – Matthew 11:21,23
These were *“the cities in which most of His miracles were performed.”*

- The most privileged of these cities was Capernaum.
 - Capernaum was Jesus’ headquarters for ministry.

4. Jesus carefully chooses three cities to use for a strategic comparison with Korazin, Bethsaida & Capernaum.

- Tyre & Sidon represented pagan, Gentile corruption and worthlessness!
 - These cities were noted for their immorality.
 - These cities were involved in Baal worship.
 - One of Tyre’s kings was even a picture of Satan. (Ezekiel 28)
- Sodom is a synonym for moral depravity.
 - This was a city of extreme perversion and sexual immorality. (Genesis 18:20-21, 19:1-29)
 - Sodom exceeded Tyre & Sidon in wickedness.

- **Here’s the shocker:** If these cities had seen the miracles of Jesus...

- ...Tyre & Sidon would have repented! (Matthew 11:21)
- ...Sodom would have responded! (Matthew 11:23)

5. In contrast, the “denounced” communities will receive the more severe punishment on Judgment Day.

“But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.” ²⁴“But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”
– Matthew 11:22,24

CONCLUSIONS AND A QUESTION

1. Doubt **within** your faith is healthy. Doubt **without** faith is deadly!
2. God’s judgment brings with it varying degrees of punishment.
3. Much revelation leads to much expectation.
4. Has God become so “familiar” to you that you have lost your sense of awe and wonder?

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2. Jesus’ reaction is due to an absence of _____.
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 - The cities were _____ to Christ.
 - The cities simply _____ Christ.
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3. These “denounced” cities should have realized a better _____.
 - Jesus spent a great deal of _____ in these places.
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