

STUDYING THE BOOK OF MATTHEW
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 44 - Jesus and John the Baptist - Matthew 11:1-19

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

MT 11:1 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

MT 11:2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples [3] to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

MT 11:4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: [5] The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy* are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. [6] Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

MT 11:7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? [8] If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. [9] Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. [10] This is the one about whom it is written:

" `I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

MT 11:11 I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. [12] From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. [13] For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. [14] And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. [15] He who has ears, let him hear.

MT 11:16 "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

MT 11:17 " `We played the flute for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.'

MT 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, `He has a demon.' [19] The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, `Here is a glutton and a

drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners." ' But wisdom is proved right by her actions."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 44 - Jesus and John the Baptist - Matthew 11:1-19

- 522. What did Jesus do while His disciples were out on their mission trip? (11:1)
- 523. What message or question did John the Baptist send to Christ from prison? (11:2-3)
- 524. What instructions did Jesus give to John's messenger? (11:4)
- 525. What kind of proof did Jesus offer to establish His claim to be the Messiah? (11:5)
- 526. What things did Jesus say John the Baptist was not? (11:7)
- 527. How did Jesus identify John? (11:9-10)
- 528. What high compliment did Jesus pay John? (11:11)
- 529. Why was John's life and ministry significant? (11:10)
- 530. What did Jesus claim about the kingdom of heaven? (11:12)
- 531. Whose prophetic role did Jesus say John was fulfilling? (11:14)
- 532. How did Jesus compare His generation to children? (11:16-17)
- 533. What criticism did John the Baptist receive? Why? (11:18)
- 534. What frequent charge was leveled at Jesus? Why? (11:19)

Lesson 45 - Woe on Unrepentant Cities - Matthew 11:20-24

MT 11:20 Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. [21] "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. [22] But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. [23] 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. [24] But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 45 - Woe on Unrepentant Cities - Matthew 11:20-24

535. After His praise of John, what did Jesus begin to do? (11:20)
536. Who was Jesus condemning? (11:20)
537. Why was Jesus denouncing the cities in which He performed most of His miracles? (11:20)
538. What two cities did Jesus condemn first? Why? (11:21)
539. How did Jesus say Korazin and Bethsaida were different from Tyre and Sidon? (11:21)
540. What did Jesus say would happen on the day of judgment? (11:22)
541. What city did Jesus single out for comparison with Sodom? (11:23)
542. What did Jesus predict for Capernaum? (11:23)
543. Why did Capernaum have a bleak future? (11:23)
544. To what ancient, evil city did Jesus compare Capernaum? Why? (11:23-24)
545. What city did Jesus say would face the sterner judgment than Sodom? Why? (11:24)

Lesson 46 - Rest for the Weary - Matthew 11:25-30

MT 11:25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. [26] Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

MT 11:27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

MT 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 46 - Rest for the Weary - Matthew 11:25-30

546. After pronouncing woe on several unrepentant cities, what did Jesus do? (11:25)
547. When did Jesus pray? (11:25)
548. How did Jesus address God? (11:25)
549. Why did Jesus say He was praising God? (11:25)
550. What did Jesus say God had entrusted or committed to Him? (11:27)
551. Who alone did Jesus say knew Him? (11:27)
552. Besides himself, who did Jesus say could know God? (11:27)
553. Who claimed to reveal God to the world? (11:27)
554. What general invitation did Christ make at this time? (11:28)
555. What kind of people was Jesus addressing? (11:28)
556. What promise did Jesus make to those who would accept His offer? (11:28)
557. What farming imagery did Jesus use to encourage people to come to Him? (11:29)
558. How did Jesus describe Himself? (11:29)
559. How is walking with Christ described? (11:30)