

## **Listen For Relief and to Repent**

Matthew 11:20-30

***Does God want you to repent?  
Are you listening to God's rest and peace?***

### **I. How to not Listen (vs. 20-24)**

- a. Jesus performed miracles so that the people would repent.
- b. We are a privileged people.
- c. Are you listening to God's actions in your life?

### **II. Who can Listen? (vs. 25-27)**

- a. All of us have the ability to listen.
- b. Wise and learned vs. Children

### **III. What to Listen for: the tender invitation of Christ. (vs. 28-30)**

- a. Who comes: All who are weary and burdened.
- b. How we come: Accepting the invitation, learning and drawing close.
- c. What comes: Yoke of Christ
- d. What comes? Relief and tranquility

### **IV. How we might Listen to this passage and apply it.**

- #1 **Repent.** Is there an area in your life that God is waiting for you to listen to his call to repent? He has worked in your life and is hoping that you might respond. Take time to reflect and listen to the challenges from God.
- #2 **Relief.** In taking on Christ's yoke we can find relief. This is tranquility or an inner peace regardless of the circumstances. As we take on His yoke we, like good disciples, will learn and take the time to study of God's presence and promises.
- #3 **Refresh.** Putting on Christ's yoke means that we are close to Him. We keep the yoke on by loving Him. With the yoke on we have connection, direction and cooperation with Christ. May you take on His yoke each day and be refreshed and revived.
- #4 **Replenish.** Replenish your toolbox of Scriptures by reading through the devotions on the opposite side of this sheet. I encourage you to take the time to listen to God so that He might allow His Scripture to speak to you.

## DAILY DEVOTIONS IN MATTHEW

For the week of March 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**SUNDAY:** Take some time to read over the passage from today. **Matthew 11:20-30** Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you what you should take from these Scriptures and how you might apply them to your life. How are you encouraged? How are you challenged? How can you become a better disciple? How might you become a better listener to God? What ways might you find rest? What will you do about it? *During the course of this week and others you are encouraged to look at the verses before and after a passage to gain more meaning and application.*

**MONDAY:** Read **Matthew 11:20-24**. Why did God perform miracles in these cities around Galilee? It was so the people would repent. Look at some of these portions from **Genesis 19**, **Isaiah 23** and **Ezekiel 26** to gain an idea of the depravity of Sodom and the wickedness of Tyre. Jesus said it would be worse for these cities that he ministered in then for the evil cities mentioned in the Old Testament. How are we in America the privileged cities of Galilee? What do we need to do to repent so that the reproach of God does not fall on us? Ask God to show you places where you should repent.

**TUESDAY:** Compare **Luke 10:18-24** with **Matthew 11:25-27**. Think of some of the experiences in which tremendous truths or faith were revealed to you through children or people whom you might consider “not educated.” Children can have such an authentic and uncomplicated faith. It is amazing what we can learn from others. In this passage, Jesus thanks God for not rewarding those who think they can make it to heaven on their own knowledge and actions. It is through grace alone that we gain salvation. Read **Ephesians 2:8 & 9** and thank God for His grace.

**WEDNESDAY:** Mull over these passages and find the rest and tranquility that Jesus desires for you in the midst of whatever you are going through. **Matthew 11:28-30**. **Psalm 23**; **Jeremiah 6:16** Stand, look, ask and listen to the good way to find rest. **Isaiah 28:12-13** God’s first choice is for his structure and morals to give us rest. **Psalm 119:161-168** There can be a deep love of the law that brings peace and rest as it draws us toward God. **Exodus 33:14** God’s presence brings rest. How might you find rest in your life by taking up Christ’s yoke allowing Him to bear some if not most of the weight and giving your concerns to Jesus? Be at rest, find rest and enjoy Christ.

**THURSDAY:** Take some time to meditate on what it means to take on the yoke of Christ. Many passages use the term of yoke negatively but it depends on whose yoke it is. What does it mean for **you** to take on Christ’s yoke? **Jeremiah 27:2-7** The yoke was a symbol of service and being subject to another nation or God. **Matthew 23:1-4** Shoulders carrying all the “dos and don’ts” of religion is not what God wants for us. **Acts 15:6-11** The yoke of duties they could not even follow but salvation was through grace. **Galatians 5:1** Christ has brought us the freedom of his presence and grace. How do we sometimes revert back to making Christianity full of duties and a burden? Be encouraged.

**FRIDAY:** During this week and next I encourage you to memorize the passage of **Matthew 11:28-30**. Take it one verse at a time or memorize it all at once and then continue to review it. I memorized this passage years ago and it continues to come to mind in times of need and rest. If you already know this passage, as some do, then choose your own or work on **Psalm 23**.

**SATURDAY:** Take a moment to glance at **Matthew 12:1-21**. Prepare your heart and mind to worship and ask the Lord to help you in the process of listening to how he might want to challenge you and how he might want to encourage you this weekend. Do we get tied up in the “dos” and “don’ts” of Christianity? Do you value human life? Where do you find your hope? Be refreshed and encouraged and challenged.