



**“Unrepentant Cities and Sinful Nations”  
Matthew 11:20–24  
The Commission of the King**

**Introduction:**

- “History is a vast early warning system.” (Norman Cousins, American journalist)
- “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” (George Santayana, American philosopher)
- “If you want to understand today you have to search yesterday.”

Matthew 11:20–24 – “Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. ‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.’” (cf. Luke 10:13)

**I. The Three Unrepenting Cities**

- The City of Chorazin
- The City of Bethsaida: The Fishing Village of Andrew, Peter, and Philip
- The City of Capernaum: The New Headquarters of Jesus

It was there Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law, a blind man, a demon-possessed boy, and a crippled man whose friends let him down through a roof. The corporate sin of that city was apathy and indifference to Christ—who was living and ministering right there in their midst.

**II. The City-Wide Judgments**

- Judgment to Chorazin and Bethsaida

Matthew 11:22 – “It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.”

- Judgment to Capernaum

Matthew 11:23–24 – “And You...will not be exalted to heaven, will you?...you will descend to Hades...it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

Luke 10:15 – “You will be brought down...”

“These cities did not attack Jesus Christ; they did not drive him from their gates; they did not seek to crucify him; they simply disregarded him. Neglect can kill as much as persecution can.” (William Barclay)

**III. The Problem Today**

The fastest growing religion in America is atheism, followed closely behind by agnosticism and a close third is what I call “I don’t care-ism.”

- The Virtual Atheist says, “There is no God.”
- The Practical Atheist says, “There is a God but I will live as if He doesn’t exist.”

“Unresponsiveness to the voice of God is the characteristic of this generation, and will be its downfall.”

“Gospel advantages and advancements abused will sink sinners so much lower into hell.” (Matthew Henry)

**IV. The Results of Apathy and Indifference**

Judges 2:17 – “...for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed themselves down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do as their fathers.”

Psalms 33:12 – “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”

Proverbs 14:34 – “Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people.”

#### **IV. The Timeless Solution**

“The more I study history the more I realize how little mankind has changed. There are no new scripts, just different actors.”  
(Richard Paul Evans, American author)

“History gives answers only to those who know how to ask questions.” (Hajo Holborn, German-American historian)

- In what ways is our city, state, and or nation like the cities Jesus condemned?
- What can we do—personally and corporately—to fulfill the promise of Psalm 33:12 – “Blessed is the nation who God is the Lord”?

#### **The A.C.T. of Repentance**

##### **Step #1: We must ADMIT our sin...personally and corporately.**

cf. Psalm 51:2–4

Corporately speaking, we can turn our “them” and “they” judgments to “us” and “we.”

Nehemiah 1:6 – “...let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father’s house have sinned.”

##### **Step #2: We must CONFESS our sin...personally and corporately.**

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Corporately speaking, maybe we should stop saying America is a Christian nation. Corporate Confession requires we do our best to say about America what God Himself would say.

##### **Step #3: We must TURN from our sin...personally and corporately.**

“Go home, lock yourself in your room, kneel down in the middle of your floor. Draw a chalk mark all around yourself and ask God to start the revival inside that chalk mark. When He has answered your prayer, the revival will be on.”

(Rodney “Gipsy” Smith)

James 4:9 – “Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.”

#### **Concluding Challenge:**

Jeremiah 29:7 – “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.”

2 Chronicles 7:13–14 – “If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:**

1. What is the value of studying Bible history?
2. In what ways is our city, state and or nation like the cities Jesus condemned?
3. What can we do—personally and corporately—to fulfill the promise of Psalm 33:12 “Blessed is the nation who God is the Lord”?
4. What did you get most out of this message?