



THE GOSPEL OF  
MATTHEW



# Revelation and Response

Matthew 11:20–24



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<sup>20</sup> Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.

<sup>21</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>22</sup> But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.”



## Matthew 11:23–24

<sup>23</sup> “And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”



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**Romans 1:20:** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.



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**Romans 2:14–15:** <sup>14</sup> For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup> They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them...



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**2 Timothy 3:15:** ...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.



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**Hebrews 1:3:** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...

**John 1:18:** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.



## 2. Exposure to Christ is a priceless gift (11:20)

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### 3. Divine revelation calls for a response (11:20)

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## 4. Hard hearts resist humble repentance (11:21–22)

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# Chorazin





# Chorazin synagogue





# Plain of Bethsaida







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# Tyre on the Mediterranean





# Sidon fishing harbor





## 5. Proud indifference is worse than pagan immorality (11:23–24)

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## Isaiah 14:13–15

- 13 “You said in your heart,  
    **‘I will ascend to heaven;**  
    above the stars of God  
    I will set my throne on high...
- 14 **I will ascend** above the heights of the clouds;  
    I will make myself like the Most High.’
- 15 **But you are brought down to Sheol,**  
    to the far reaches of the pit.”



# Possible location of Sodom near Dead Sea







## Matthew 10:15

“Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.”



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- God's judgment will be *eternal*.
- God's judgment will be *good*.
- God's judgment has been *satisfied...*  
for those who belong to Christ by faith.



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- Moving experiences do not guarantee life change.
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- Repentance isn’t a new perfection but a new direction.



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