# Matthew 11 - “Meet Jesus: Gentle & Lowly”

**INTRO**: **Back in Matthew.** School Friends. **Reunited**.
**Where we are in the story:** Birth, Son of David, Babies (Moses), Egypt, John Baptist, Baptized (Thru Water), Exodus/ Wilderness (40 Days), Mount/Law, Disciples, Miracles (Son of Man Forgives Sins), Teaching & Sending Disciples, Returning.

**I. RECIEVE (1-19)**
- A. **John Baptist** - Doubt? Fear? Realization?
  1. Was this for His Followers? Maybe.
  2. Christians can doubt too.

**ILLUSTRATION: Little Children-** Play time. Don’t get it. Game to them. Just going through the motions. Not serious.
**APPLICATION: 1) Jesus reverses curse. Sins. Healing.**
**2) Jesus’s plan for your salvation/deliverance may not be what you plan/imagine.** Faith is not lived experience, it’s looking to Jesus, trusting Him and receiving who He is.
**3) Don’t let your self-focused,** narrow-minded, short-sighted assumptions of His Kingdom limit your faith.

**II. REPENT (20-24)**
- A. Sins of Immorality & Rejection (Ignorance/Sloth)
- B. Sins of Morality & Unbelief (Arrogance/Pride)
- ***C. God wants repentance more than religiosity.***

**ILLUSTRATION: Crayons vs Clay in the Light of the “Son.”**
**APPLICATION: 1) “Been thru Hell.” “Like Hell.” “It’s Hell.”** Jesus is saying nothing can compare to Hell. The suffering of separation from the goodness of God, love of God and the eternal presence of his justice & wrath toward sin. Just like your greatest delights, joys and pleasures are earth don’t compare with Heaven, your greatest pains, sufferings and sorrows on earth can’t compare with Hell. One is a Hopeful Promise, the other is a dire warning. “**One Way or <u>another</u>.”**
**2) Repent & Turn to Him as you Savior from Hell/ Punishment**. “I’m saved by grace thru faith.” What are you saved from? Good News is only as good as bad news is bad.
**3) Jesus is the only Human who actually experience “Hell on Earth”;** He experience “Hell on the Cross.” Not physical.

**Transition**: When you do come to Him, He receives you with gentleness, comfort & rest.

**III. REST (25-30)**
- A. **Burdened. Weary.** Under this warning. The truth of the Law & God’s justice/wrath.
- B. **Conviction of Sin & Guilt.** Shame of your sin. Sick of your sin (Weary and Worn Out by it!)
- C. **Don’t give up or give in.** You have a Savior ready to give you rest and carry your burden.

**ILLUSTRATION**: **Pilgrim’s Progress.** After one look at The Cross, the burden loosened and fell off and rolled back down the hill and into a grave never to be seen again.
- **D. He reveals this to “little children.” “Unwise.”**
- **E. Gracious Will.** We don’t figure it out. Revealed.

**APPLICATION: 1) Have you felt your burden lifted?** Have you experienced Rest for your soul?
**2) Jesus has to speak the Truth.** But He does so with grief & pity in His heart. And it’s His love & mercy, his gentle & lowly heart that He must offer grace and rest to ANY who come to Him. He can’t refuse a repentant sinners.
**3) It’s not your goodness** that qualifies you, it’s His grace.
**4) The same Jesus who threatens justice & wrath,** is the same loving Savior who offers a warm embrace to children.
**ILLUSTRATION**: **The Patriot.** Mel Gibson. Inflicting wrath, justice, vengeance on His enemies. Killed his Son! He’s violent. He’s good. He’s strategic. He gets his enemy. They fear him. He’s like a ghost to them. Swamp Fox.
BUT…at the same time, he is a gentle & loving father, he’s a prankster and a jokester, he’s a friend and he’s a sweet romantic. His daughter runs to him, ***“Don’t go Papa!” “I’ll come back. I promise.” TRUE GENTLENESS…***

***CONCLUSION: Jesus promises to come back.*** *He will. To conquer His enemies, and to receive his friends/children into His bosom and into their eternal rest.*

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**The Condemned Cities**
These cities are specifically rebuked by Jesus for their lack of faith despite witnessing his power:

- **Chorazin**: An ancient village located in Galilee, rebuked alongside Bethsaida. *Small Town.*
- **Bethsaida**: A fishing village on the Sea of Galilee, known as the birthplace of Peter, Andrew, and Philip.
- **Capernaum**: Jesus' own ministry headquarters on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, warned that it will be brought down to Hades for its pride.

**“Bible Belt” = “Gospel Triangle”.** They’ve got the Word. The Message. The Savior. The Good News. Miracles. Stories. But they reject Him for more of a religious, moralistic, phony, external, behavioral, self-righteous justification. Or they receive Him as nice guy, fun times, entertainment.

**The Ancient Cities of Comparison**
Jesus compares the Galilean cities to these notorious Old Testament *gentile* cities to highlight the depth of Galilee's impenitence:

- **Tyre**: An ancient *Phoenician* port city located in modern-day Lebanon. **(Trade, Immoralism, “Tortuga”, etc.)**
- **Sidon**: Another major *Phoenician* port city, frequently associated with Tyre in biblical texts. **Port city. Drunkenness, Wealth/Greed, Prostituion, etc.**
- **Sodom**: The infamous ancient city destroyed by fire in Genesis, used here to show that even Sodom would have repented if they had seen Capernaum's miracles. ***It’s got it’s own category of sin named after it. Homosexuality, Sexual Exploitation, Immoralism, Violence, Murder, Butchery, etc.***

***SIN CITIES. They would have repented****. If they had repented, he would’ve forgiven them and accepted them. Much like* ***Nineveh****.*

**PILGRIM’S PROGRESS:**
**The Release:** As Christian climbs up to the cross, the straps holding the heavy load snap, and the burden tumbles down the slope. [1, 2]

**The Sepulchre:** The burden rolls directly into the mouth of the sepulchre (tomb) and disappears from sight forever. [1, 2]

**The Reaction:** Christian feels immense joy and relief, weeping tears of wonder that simply gazing upon the cross could remove his long-held misery. [1, 2]

**The Shining Ones:** Three heavenly figures (Shining Ones) then approach him to announce his forgiveness, strip him of his filthy rags, give him new garments, and place a sealed roll on his forehead.