

Rejection of the Kingdom: Salvation in the Midst of Rejection

Matthew 11:1-30 / April 11, 2020 / Resurrection Sunday

A)	Birth of the Kingdom	Narrative 1	1:1-4:25
B)	Blessings of the Kingdom	Teaching 1	5:1-7:29
C)	Authority of the Kingdom	Narrative 2	8:1-9:34
D)	Mission of the Kingdom	Teaching 2	9:35-11:1
E)	Rejection of the Kingdom	Narrative 3	11:2-12:50
F)	Parables of the Kingdom	Teaching 3	13:1-53
E ¹)	Acceptance of the Kingdom	Narrative 4	13:54-17:27
D ¹)	Community of the Kingdom	Teaching 4	18:1-35
C ¹)	Authority of the Kingdom	Narrative 5	19:1-22:46
B ¹)	Warnings of the Kingdom	Teaching 5	23:1-25:46
A ¹)	New Birth of the Kingdom	Narrative 6	26:1-28:20

Rejection of the Kingdom: 11:2-12:50

Cycle One

#1 Rejection by the crowds of John the Baptist and Jesus	11:2-19
#2 Rejection by the Galilean towns of Jesus	11:20-24
#1 Offer of Jesus' rest from the Father	11:25-30

Cycle Two

#3 Rejection by the Pharisees of Jesus eating on the Sabbath	12:1-8
#4 Rejection by the Pharisees of Jesus healing on the Sabbath	12:9-14
#2 Offer of Jesus' hope to the Gentiles	12:15-21

Cycle Three

#5 Rejection by the Pharisees of Jesus casting out demons	12:22-37
#6 Rejection by the Pharisees of Jesus' miracles	12:38-45
#3 Offer of Jesus' family relationships for obedience to the Father	12:46-50

When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. (11:1)

CYCLE 1: Rejection and Salvation

OPPOSITION #1: REJECTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST BY THE CROWDS (11:2-19)

1. Jesus Reveals His Identity to John the Baptist (11:2-6)

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:

1. the blind receive their sight and Matthew 9:27-31
2. the lame walk, Matthew 8:5-13; 9:1-8
3. lepers are cleansed and Matthew 8:1-4
4. the deaf hear, and Matthew 9:32-34
5. the dead are raised up, and Matthew 9:18-26
6. the poor have good news preached to them. Matthew 8:16-17; 8:28-34

And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

Isaiah's Prophecy of Jesus' Miracles

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the
crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
**Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,**

**and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;**
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
**And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**
(Isaiah 35:1-10)

2. Jesus Explains the Purpose of John the Baptist (11:7-11)

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John:

- **He is not a people-pleasing politician:** "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see?"
- **He is not a wealthy figurehead:** A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.
- **He is not just an O T Prophet:** What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
- **He is the greatest prophet:** This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist.
- **He is the prophetic voice of a greater kingdom:** Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

John the Baptist: Prophet Malachi

You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?" "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. (Malachi 2:17-3:4)

3. Jesus Explains the Opposition to John the Baptist and to Jesus (12-19)

- **Opposition to John the Baptist:** From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.
- **Prophecies Pointed to John the Baptist:** For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.
- **Analogy of the Opposition:** “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates,
Jesus’ Wedding Invitation: “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; /
John’s Funeral Invitation: we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’
Rejection of John: For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’
Rejection of Jesus: The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

OPPOSITION #2: REJECTION OF JESUS BY THE GALILEAN TOWNS (11:20-24)

Then he began to denounce the cities where **most of his mighty works had been done**, because they did not repent.

1. **Rejection of Northern Galilean Towns:** “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. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.
2. **Rejection of Jesus’ Home Town:** 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. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

Miracles in Galilean Towns

Nature: 8 out of 9 miracles: Water to wine; catch of fish; storm calmed; walks on water; feeds 4000; coin in a fish; catch of fish
Disease: 9 out of 16 miracles: Blindness 2x; Paralysis 2x; Leprosy, fever 2x; withered hand; blood discharge
Demons: 3 out of 7 miracles: Man in a synagogue; two men in the tombs; Mute
Death: 2 out of 3 miracles: Widow’s son; 12-year old daughter

SALVATION #1: REST IN JESUS (11:25-28)

At that time Jesus declared,

1. **Revelation: Jesus Revealed to the Weak, not to the Wise (11:25-26)**
 - “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
 - that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and
 - revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

Foolishness of the Cross

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but **we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles**, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." (I Corinthians 1:18-31)

2. Election: Jesus Chosen by the Father and Chooses to whom to Reveal Himself (11:27)

- All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and
- no one knows the Son except the Father, and
- no one knows the Father except the Son and
- anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

The Election of God: Romans

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." **So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.** (Romans 9:14-29)

3. Salvation: Jesus Offers Rest to the Tired (11:28-30)

- **Come to me**, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Examples of "Labor" and "Heavy Laden"

Spiritual oppression of the demon-possessed man in the synagogue	Luke 4:31-36
Social isolation of the man full of leprosy outside the city	Matthew 8:1-4
Total dependency of the paralytic dropped through the roof	Matthew 9:1-8
Public embarrassment of the man with the disfigured hand in the synagogue	Matthew 12:9-14
Overwhelming anxiety of the soldier over his servant's near-death illness	Matthew 8:5-13
Unexpected grief of the widow over her son's death	Luke 7:11-17
Lonely enslavement of the demon-possessed man living in the cemetery	Matthew 8:28-33
Humiliating shame of the woman with a chronic blood disorder	Matthew 9:20-22
Excruciating grief of the father over his 12-year old daughter's death	Matthew 9:18,23-26
Overwhelming bondage of the demon-possessed young man	Matthew 17:14-20
Emotional isolation of the man's muteness caused by demonic-possession	Matthew 12:22-32
Debilitating helplessness of the woman's demonic-possession of eighteen years	Luke 13:10-17
Physical suffering of the man with dropsy	Luke 14:1-6
Religious rejection of the Samaritan with leprosy	Luke 17:11-19
Blatant silencing of the blind beggar by the religious community	Matthew 20:29-34

Examples of Rest in the Scriptures

Sabbath: Rest from work on the 7 th day	Genesis 2:1-3
Sabbatical Year: The rest of the field on the 7 th day	Lev 25:4
Moses: The rest of the promise land	Deut 12:10
Joshua: The rest of the promise land	Joshua 1:13
Othniel: The rest from enemies for 40 years	Judges 3:11
David: The rest from enemies and the plans for the temple	2 Samuel 7:11
Solomon: The rest of the people at the prayer for the temple	1 Kings 8:56
Heaven: Heavenly Rest	Hebrews 4:8-10

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (Hebrews 4:8-10)

- **Take my yoke** upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and

Taking My Yoke: Take Up Your Cross

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." (Matthew 16:24-28)

Jesus: Gentle and Lowly in Heart

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11)

- you will **find rest** for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Find Rest for Your Souls: Romans

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 7:21-8:4)

Easy Yoke; Burden Light

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39)

A) Jesus walked out of His tomb

**B) to invite you to carry the
yoke of His cross**

**A¹) to enter into the rest of His
empty tomb.**