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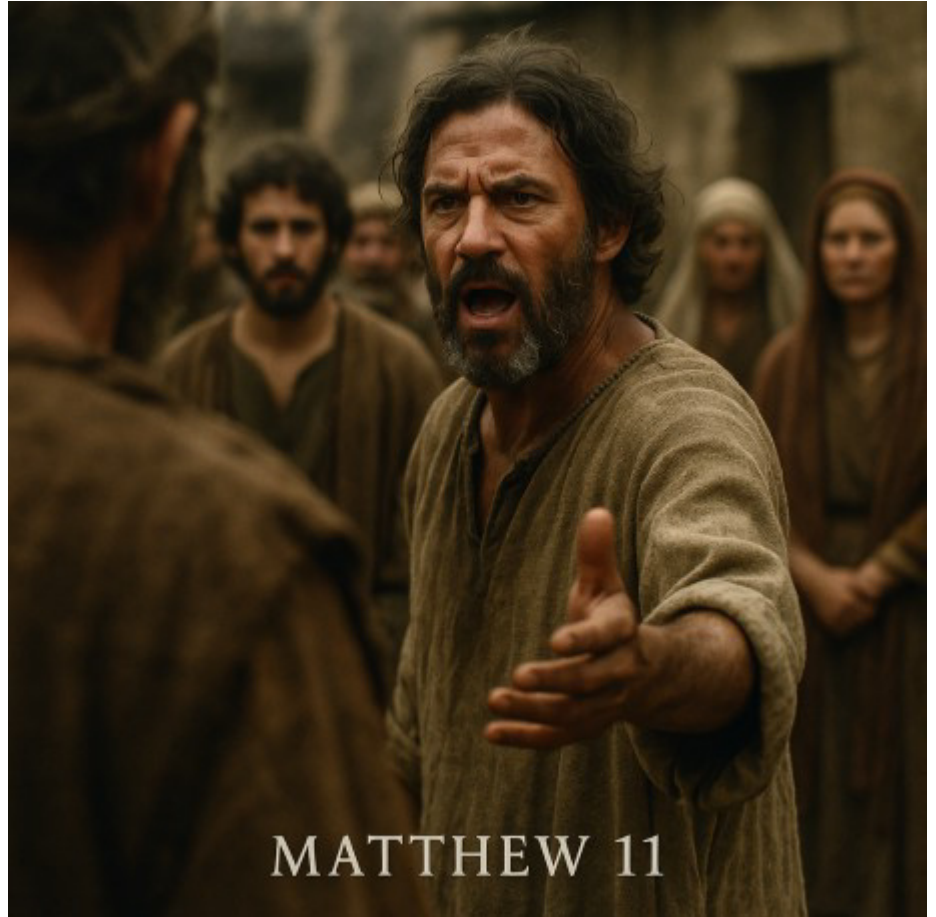
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Matthew 11 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Matthew 11

Matthew 11:1

When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

† Jesus not only sends out His disciples but continues teaching Himself, showing the kingdom mission spreads through Him and His followers together.

† Josephus mentions teachers who traveled through cities, but none with Jesus' authority or message (Antiquities 18.85).

† To us today, it shows the gospel is advanced by both Christ's authority and the work of His disciples.

Matthew 11:2-3

Now while in prison, John heard about the works of Christ, and he sent word by his disciples, and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for someone else?"

† John, imprisoned by Herod, sends to confirm Jesus' identity. This does not show unbelief, but the need for confirmation of prophecy.

† Josephus confirms John was imprisoned by Herod Antipas (Antiquities 18.116).

† To us today, it shows even the strongest believers may seek assurance, and Jesus provides it.

Matthew 11:4-6

Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: those who are blind receive sight and those who limp walk, those with leprosy are cleansed and those who are deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is any person who does not take offense at Me."

† Jesus points to the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies (Isaiah 35:5-6, 61:1). His works prove His identity.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls expected these signs of the Messiah (4Q521). Jesus confirms He is the One.

† To us today, it shows we trust in Christ's works as the fulfillment of Scripture.

Matthew 11:7-9

As these disciples of John were going away, Jesus began speaking to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in kings' palaces! But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet."

† John was not weak or luxurious, but a prophet. His role was greater than others because he prepared the way for Christ.

† Philo often contrasted the luxury of rulers with the simplicity of true virtue (On the Embassy to Gaius 34). Jesus highlights John's prophetic strength.

† To us today, it shows that true greatness is found in faithfulness, not wealth.

Matthew 11:10-11

"This is the one about whom it is written: 'Behold, I am sending My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.' Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

† John fulfills Malachi 3:1 as the forerunner. Yet even the least in the new covenant enjoys greater privilege than John, who died before its fulfillment.

† To us today, it shows the immense blessing of living in the fulfilled kingdom.

Matthew 11:12-15

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has been treated violently, and violent men take it by

force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is Elijah who was to come. The one who has ears to hear, let him hear."

† John fulfills Malachi 4:5 as Elijah. The kingdom was opposed violently by rulers and zealots.

† Josephus records zealots using violence in God's name (Wars 2.254), but Jesus identifies John as Elijah and His kingdom as spiritual.

† To us today, it proves prophecy is fulfilled and the kingdom established, not by force but by Christ.

Matthew 11:16-19

"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces, who call out to the other children, and say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a song of mourning, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a heavy drinker, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' And yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

† The people rejected both John and Jesus, proving their hardness.

† Tacitus noted how people mocked what they did not understand (Histories 5.5). Jesus shows their rejection fulfilled prophecy.

† To us today, it shows that truth is rejected by the stubborn, but God's wisdom prevails.

Matthew 11:20-24

Then He began to reprimand 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 that occurred in you had occurred in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades! For if the miracles that occurred in you had occurred in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment, than for you."

† Jesus condemns the covenant cities for rejecting Him despite His miracles. Their destruction foreshadows AD 70.

† Josephus records the devastation of Galilean cities during the war (Wars 3.306).

† To us today, it shows judgment falls on those who reject Christ despite clear evidence.

Matthew 11:25-27

At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son determines to reveal Him."

† God's wisdom is hidden from the proud but given to the humble. Jesus reveals the Father uniquely.

† Origen emphasized that divine revelation comes through the Son alone (On First Principles 1.2.6).

† To us today, it shows our knowledge of God comes only through Christ.

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light."

† Jesus offers covenant rest, fulfilling Jeremiah 6:16. His yoke contrasts with the heavy burdens of Pharisaic law.

† The Mishnah records how Pharisees spoke of "the yoke of the law" (Avot 3:5). Jesus offers a new yoke, light and fulfilling.

† To us today, it shows that true rest is found only in Christ.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 18.85, 18.116; Wars 2.254, 3.306

† Philo, On the Embassy to Gaius 34

† Dead Sea Scrolls: 4Q521

† Tacitus, Histories 5.5

† Origen, On First Principles 1.2.6

† Mishnah, Avot 3:5

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