

# TO BE A DISCIPLE

## Unit 20: *Mounting Resistance to the Messiah*

### Matthew 11:16 – 12:8

December 29, 2024

#### CONTINUITY FROM LAST SESSION (December 22, 2024)

1. The Call to Discipleship is a CRISIS [dangerous opportunity].
2. The sinful and skeptical world reacts with violence and aggressive resistance.
3. Christ encourages his disciples not to fear violence that destroys the body – but which cannot destroy the soul.

#### I. WOE TO THOSE WHO CONTRADICT THE CHRIST (Matthew 11:16-24)

**MATTHEW 11:16-24** *"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, [17](#) "'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' [18](#) For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' [19](#) 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." [20](#) Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. [21](#) "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. [22](#) But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. [23](#) 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. [24](#) But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."*

A. Verse 16 - *'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance ...*

1. Skeptics are like *spoiled children at a wedding reception – not engaged*.
2. EATING AND DRINKING are signs of acceptance [unimpeded fellowship].
3. If you can't stand the Message – just discredit the Messenger.
4. This section deals with the attempt to CONTRADICT GOD by assuming that you have a "privileged position (apply to others – but not to me).

#### II. PROMISED REST FOR APOSTOLIC DISCIPLES (Matthew 11:25-30)

**Matthew 11:25-30** *[25](#) At that time Jesus declared, "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; [26](#) yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. [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. [28](#) Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29](#) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30](#) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

1. Jesus thanks the Father for what people would call REAL FAILURE!
2. Those who are "wise" in their own eyes and reject the call to follow Christ.



3. Jesus' has a special relationship with the Heavenly Father (Genesis 4:1).
4. The "heavy burden" is the burden of the Law (10 Commandments).
5. Luther: *Lex semper accusat!* [*The Law always accuses!*]
6. Does not mean "sweaty physical labor" – but "yoke of Torah" (Law)
7. JESUS DOES NOT PROMISE A REST OF INACTIVITY AND IDLENESS.

### III. JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH (Matthew 12:1-8)

**MATTHEW 12:1-8** 1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." 3 He said to them, "*Have you not read* what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or *have you not read* in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? 6 I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. 7 And *if you had known* what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

A. Key word in this chapter is ... **MERCY** (give forgiveness and withhold punishment)

1. Greek ἔλεος [el-ei-os] ... *Kyrie eleison ... Lord, have mercy*
2. Hebrew רַחַם [rach-ham] ... compassion and forgiveness shown to someone by Someone Else who has power to punish.
3. Hebrew word for "mercy" (רחם - *racham*) shares the exact same three-letter root as the word for "womb" (רחם - *rechem*).
4. Hebrew Shabbat (שַׁבָּת): Means "a time of labor cessation or rest"
5. See Leviticus 23:3 and Exodus 35:1-3
6. Sabbath Law required three things: 1) Rest 2) Worship 3) Family Re-creation
7. Two Old Testament examples to clarify the REAL MEANING OF THE SABBATH DAY (opportunity to receive MERCY)

- a. 1 Samuel 21:1-6
- b. Numbers 28:9-10

6. Jesus reproaches Pharisees for NOT REALLY UNDERSTANDING THE LAW OF GOD AND THE SCRIPTURES THEMSELVES (Verse 3, 5 and 7)