

TO BE A DISCIPLE

Unit 1901: *The Contradicted Christ in Conflict*

Matthew 11:16-12:50

December 22, 2024

CONTINUITY FROM LAST SESSION (December 15, 2024)

1. Apostolic (sent out) disciples have NO FEAR over (a) Persecution (b) God's Judgment on Disobedience or (c) Whether or not God cares for them.
2. Three ways that Christians CONTRADICT THE CHRIST: (a) Ignore or discredit Christ's messengers (b) Select part of Christ's Word that you want – and ignore the rest (c) Assume you have a "privileged position" [true for others – but not for me due to special circumstances.
3. Following Christ as a true disciple can be a SWORD that separates spouses and parents and children.
4. John the Baptist TEMPORARILY doubts Jesus' messiahship because of his lack of "fire and judgment".

I. MESSENGERS FROM JOHN THE BAPTIST COME TO MEET JESUS (Matthew 11:1-6)

MATTHEW 11:1-6 1 When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. 2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

1. John's doubt of Jesus' Messiahship triggered by Jesus' LACK OF JUDGMENT
2. **Matthew 3:11-12**
3. Jesus' answer to John is a collation of 4 passages from Isaiah'
4. Isaiah 29:17-18 / Isaiah 35:5-10 / Isaiah 61:1 / Isaiah 26:19
5. **John doesn't doubt that God will send the Messiah – but is it Jesus?**

II. MATTHEW CONTRASTS JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JESUS THE MESSIAH (Matthew 11:7-15)

MATTHEW 11:7-15 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" 11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

1. Matthew wants us to see that Jesus is far greater than John.
2. But both John and Jesus are intimately connected to the coming Kingdom of God.
3. John identifies Jesus as MESSENGER predicted by the prophet Malachi [450 AD].
4. **MALACHI 3:1** 1 "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.

5. John is great – but his role is preparatory (See Luke 1:39-45)
6. Jews literally expected ELIJAH THE PROPHET [900 BC] to return prior to the Day of Judgment (See Malachi 4:5-6)
7. Japanese word for “crisis” [危機 (“Kiki”)] means “dangerous opportunity”

III. 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."*

1. Contradict God by discrediting the Messengers [eating and drinking]
2. EATING AND DRINKING were signs of total acceptance and unimpeded fellowship.
3. This is attempt to CONTRADICT GOD by assuming a “privileged position” that applies to others – but not to me).
4. Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum had all been favored by seeing most of the repeated miracles of Jesus – but still refused the Call to Discipleship.

IV. 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. It is the sovereign will of Christ that people KNOW THE FATHER through Him.
3. *labor and are heavy laden* refers to the heavy burden of the Law.
4. The “yoke” of discipleship is easy to bear and light to carry.
5. There is no authentic discipleship without SERVICE TO CHRIST.