



## **“COME TO CHRIST!!!”**

### **MATTHEW Chapter 11**

#### **> (v1-19) ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE COMING ONE?**

**(v1-3) Remembering John the Baptist** – Listen to the following summary: “The conviction that God was about to begin a new work among this unprepared people broke upon John with the force of a desert storm. He was called to put on the prophet’s hairy mantle with the resolve and urgency of Elijah himself. Not only did he dress like Elijah, in camel’s hair and leather belt (2 Kings 1:8; Mark 1:6); **he understood his ministry to be one of reform and preparation**, just as Elijah did (Luke 1:17). In the popular belief of the time, it was believed that Elijah would return from heaven to prepare the way for the Messiah (Mal 4:5-6). John reminded the people of Elijah because of his dress and behavior (Matt 11:14; Mark 9:12-13). John was no doubt as rugged as the desert itself. Nevertheless, his commanding righteousness drew large crowds to hear him. What they encountered from this “voice...crying in the wilderness” (Mark 1:3) **was a call to moral renewal, baptism, and a messianic hope**. John’s baptism was a washing, symbolizing moral regeneration, administered to each candidate only once. He criticized the people for presuming to be righteous and secure with God because they were children of Abraham (Matt 3:9). John laid an ax to the root of this presumption. He warned that they, the Jews, would be purged and rejected unless they demonstrated **fruits of repentance** (Matt 3:7-12). John’s effort at moral reform, symbolized by baptism, was his way of preparing Israel to meet God. He began his preaching with the words, “*Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight*” (Mark 1:3). He had a burning awareness of one who was to come after him who would **baptize in fire and Spirit** (Mark 1:7-8). John was a forerunner of this mightier one, a herald of the messianic hope, which would dawn in Jesus. Josephus records that Herod arrested and executed John because he feared his popularity might lead to a revolt. The gospels reveal it was because John spoke out against Herod’s immoral marriage to Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Mark 6:17-19). (from Nelson’s Bible Dictionary)

**(v4-6) JESUS IS THE COMING ONE! THE MESSIAH! THE SAVIOR OF THE WHOLE WORLD!** Observe the miracles, receive His credentials, be **blessed by believing!**

#### **(v7-10) Jesus describes John the Baptist as:**

**(1) IMMOVABLE!** – *A reed shaken by the wind?* – The ways of the world would not faze John.

**(2) UNFLAPPABLE!** – “*king’s houses*” – John was incorrigible in regards to “political correctness.”

**(3) NON-ECUMENICAL!** – All roads do not lead to heaven, only one road, John the Baptist said, **John 1:29-30** - *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*

**(v11-15) John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:17)** - Like Elijah, John had a message of judgment for the apostate nation of Israel. His ministry was prophesied in Isaiah 40:3 - *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.”* and he fulfilled it.

- But **Malachi 4:5** prophesied the coming of Elijah “*before the coming of the great and dreadful Day of the Lord.*” This “*Day of the Lord*” is the time of Tribulation that will come on all the earth (see Matt 24:15). But no such judgments followed the ministry of John the Baptist. Why?

Many Bible students believe that Malachi 4:5 will be fulfilled literally when Elijah comes as one of the "two witnesses" spoken of in **Revelation Ch. 11**.

**(v16-19) Jesus was ministering to a "generation" of contradiction, condescension, and condemnation! Beware of a self-justified generation - Prov 30:12 - *There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.***

**- Don't be deceived by a faithless generation - Luke 9:41 - *"O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you?"***

**- Get SAVED! - Acts 2:40-41 - *"Be saved" from this perverse generation.* Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.**

**- Be a chosen generation! - 1 Peter 2:9-10 - *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.***

### **> (v20-24) WATCH OUT FOR THE CARELESS ONES!**

**"Woe"** means judgment, but it also includes pity and sorrow. The Gentile cities of Tyre and Sidon, and the godless cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, would have repented had they seen the miracles that Jesus and His disciples performed. Capernaum had been "exalted to heaven" by being privileged to have the Messiah live there. Yet her greater privileges only brought greater responsibilities and greater judgment. Five of the ten miracles recorded in Matt 8-9 were performed in Capernaum. What about the people who keep hearing the "good news" of Jesus Christ, His life, His miracles, His love, His forgiveness, His salvation; and yet they reject, bringing to their soul greater judgment.

### **> (v25-30) COME TO CHRIST AND LEARN!!!**

**(v25-27) *"hidden from the wise and prudent,"*** (the spiritually and intellectually proud) revealed unto babes (simple and humble ones). Let's be comforted by Paul in **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**.

#### **(v28-30) Observe three COMPASSIONATE CALLS OF CHRIST:**

**(1) COME TO ME – Those who labor** (King Solomon wrote in **Eccl 2:22-23 - *For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.***) **And are heavy laden** – From morning to night people carry with them "the burden," that is the weight of their sins upon their soul. Jesus will set you free! In **1 John 1:9 - *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*** Come, confess and you will find rest in Jesus Christ!

**(2) TAKE HIS YOKE - To "take a yoke"** in that day, meant to become a disciple. When we submit to Christ, we are yoked to Him. The word "easy" means "well-fitting"; He has just the yoke that is tailor-made for our lives and needs. The burden of doing His will is not a heavy one **1 John 5:3** says, *for this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.* **John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.***

**(3) LEARN FROM HIM – Jesus is GENTLE & HUMBLE.** Learn His grace and mercy, His love and forgiveness, His life and make it your lifestyle! (Know and follow His **WORD! PRAY—**

have faith in God! **FELLOWSHIP** in the body of Christ—serve one another! This is the Christian life!)

**THIS INVITATION IS FOR ALL! AND ALL MAY COME TO CHRIST!**

**- A Father Prayer by General Douglas MacArthur (May 1952)** - *Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory. Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know Thee and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge. Lead him I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail. Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past. And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength. Then, I, his father, will dare to whisper, have not lived in vain.*

*Just As I Am*

*Just as I am without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou biddst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot;  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Hath broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yes, Thine alone,  
Oh Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*By Charlotte Elliott*



**Charlotte Elliott was born in 1803, found the Lord and penned this precious tune at the age of thirty six. An evangelist had made a**

deep and marked impression on her life and on her very being when he made this statement to her. "You must come just as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God that has taken away the sin of the world"