

Bible chat week starting 9 7 23

Matthew 11:16-30

16 *'To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others:*

17 *"We played the pipe 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, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners." But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.'*

20 *Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. 21 'Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgement than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgement than for you.'*

25 *At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.*

27 *'All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

28 *'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'*

1. What point is Jesus making in verses 16 - 19? Why were so many apparently unresponsive either to John's ministry or to Jesus' ministry?
2. Jesus has a dark message for the towns of Galilee in verses 20 - 24. What aspects of life did Jesus find so objectionable? (Compare with Matthew 23:2 - 7).
3. In verses 25 - 26, who are the little children, and who are the wise and learned in Jesus' time? What about in our own time?
4. Looking at verses 28 - 30, what do you think ordinary people in Jesus' day found burdensome?
5. The sermon compared the loads we carry through life to a rucksack of stuff we have ourselves packed in. If you unpack your rucksack and lay it in front of Jesus, what sort of things are you unpacking?

6. What are the easy yoke and the light burden Jesus asks us to take up?
7. Can we learn the knack of only carrying Jesus' light burden and yet still getting on with our day-to-day responsibilities in a light and easy way?
8. Why is modern church life so burdensome? Is it time to leave some things behind altogether?