### Matthew

## Chapter 11

1Now, after Jesus had finished giving his twelve disciples these instructions, he went out to preach and teach in their cities.  
  
2However, because John [the Immerser] (who was in jail) heard about the things that the Anointed One was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him 3whether he was really the one who was to come, or if they should expect someone else.  
  
4And this is what Jesus told them:  
  
 ‘Go back and report to John all that you’re seeing and hearing!  
  
 5‘Tell him that the blind are seeing, the lame are walking, the lepers are being cleansed, the deaf are hearing, the dead are being raised, and the poor are being taught the good news.  
  
 6‘So, anyone who doesn’t stumble over me will be blest.’  
  
7Then after [John’s disciples] had left, Jesus asked the crowd this about John:  
  
 ‘What did you go to the desert to see…  
 Reeds being blown in the wind?  
 8Yes, what did you go out to see…  
 A man who’s dressed in soft clothes?  
  
 ‘Those wearing soft clothes live in mansions!  
 9So, why did you really go out there?  
 Did [you go there] to [visit] a Prophet?  
 Yes, and one who’s more than a Prophet!  
  
 10‘For, this is the one of whom it was written:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll send My messenger ahead  
 To prepare the road that’s before him!’  
 [Malachi 3:1]  
  
 11‘I tell you the truth: Of those born to women, none have been raised that are greater than John. But the least in the Kingdom of [God] will be greater than him.  
  
 12‘For from the time of John [until now], the Kingdom of [God] has been taken by force… And the forceful are the ones who’ve seized it. 13Indeed, this was all prophesied in the Law and the Prophets. 14And if you’re willing to accept it; he’s the EliJah that was to come [first]… 15Let those who have ears pay attention!  
  
 16‘To whom can I liken this people? They’re like children playing in the markets that shout at their mates:  
  
 17‘We played the flute, but you didn’t dance…  
 We wailed, but you didn’t beat on your chests!’  
  
 18‘When John came along; because he didn’t eat fine food or drink any [wine], they said that he had a demon! 19But because the Son of Man loves fine foods and wine, they call him an alcoholic and glutton… A friend of tax collectors and sinners!  
  
 ‘Yet, wisdom is proven righteous by its results.’  
  
20And then he started to berate the cities where he’d done most of his powerful deeds, because they hadn’t repented.  
  
He said:  
  
 21‘Woe to you, O ChoraZin, and woe to you, O BethSaida; for if the powerful deeds that had happened in you had also happened in Tyre and Sidon, then they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes.  
  
 22‘But I tell you: It’ll be easier for Tyre and Sidon on Judgment Day than for you!  
  
 23‘And you, O CapharNaum, will you be raised to the heavens? No, you’ll go down to the place of the dead!  
  
 ‘For if the powerful deeds that happened in you had also happened in Sodom, [that city] would still be here today.  
  
 24‘So I tell you that it’ll be better for the land of Sodom on Judgment Day than it will be for you!’  
  
25Then it was concerning this that Jesus prayed:  
  
 ‘I publicly praise you O Father,  
 Lord of the heavens and earth;  
 For You’ve hidden these things from the smart and the wise,  
 While You revealed them to infants.  
  
 26‘Yes Father; this is the thing that You have approved.  
  
 27‘All that I have, came from my Father;  
 For no one knows the Father as well as His son,  
 And no one knows the son as well as his Father…  
 Or those to whom he’s revealed Him.  
  
 28‘So, come to me, you who’ve worked hard,  
 And you who’ve born heavy loads,  
 Because I’ll bring you refreshment.  
  
 29‘Yes, learn from me and put on my yoke.  
 For I’m meek and I have a kind heart,  
 So your souls will find refreshment in me.  
 30This yoke of mine is very gentle  
 And the load [I give you] is light!’