

## The liability in failing to recognize the purpose and function of divine miracles (Matthew 11:20-24)

### I. The Scriptures speak to the *reality* of the supernatural

### II. The purpose of ‘mighty works:’

- a. To *bring about* repentance
- b. ... but miracles cannot *compel* repentance or faith in the sinful heart  
— Pharaoh, Israelites
- c. The etymology of μετα-voέω: lit: ‘to perceive after’
- d. A good definition of ‘Repentance unto life’
- e. Where repentance wasn’t happening, woes were pronounced

### III. There’s a tension in the *theology* of miracles

- a. God alone grants repentance ...  
Deuteronomy 29:2-4
- b. ... but the responsibility to repent belongs to men alone, because they are  
neither compelled nor restrained by any outside force
- c. The tension is explained by Equal Ultimacy: There is **not** an equal divine  
causality behind damnation and salvation

### IV. Our challenge: allow God to be sovereign in salvation

- a. Reconciling 1 Timothy 2:3-4 **vs.** 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- b. The solution: We don’t need to know **why** God is sovereign

### V. All punishment on Judgment Day *will not be equally terrible for all*

- a. The reality of Judgment Day ...  
Romans 2:16; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2 Peter 2:9
- b. ... it will be more bearable and more tolerable for some  
Luke 12:47-48
- c. **Premise:** *Anyone* witnessing the miracles and hearing His teaching about the  
kingdom, who is indifferent to His claims, will fall under severe judgment

### VI. The miracle of faith

- a. Thomas Watson quote
- b. Conclusion: Jesus cannot remain indifferent to our sin and rejection