

FOUR AWAKENING TRUTHS

Exposition of Matthew Chapter 11

IN this day in which we live there is confusion everywhere, from the White House all the way down to the dwelling house. We are crying to God for a spiritual awakening. We want to look at four great awakening truths. “Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free.” Believe lies and you will continue to live in bondage.

Truth can unshackle your will, but it is in bondage until God quickens you and sets you free, enabling you to worship God and move on in this pilgrim journey of faith. The four great truths are found in this 11th chapter of Matthew. If you would, please open your Bibles and let us not go any further until we have read the entire chapter.

I. A DOUBTING PROPHET – vss. 2 – 15. John the Baptist baptized the Lord, but soon after that Herod caught him and cast him in jail. He heard that Jesus was performing miracles and sent some of his people to ask the Lord some questions. Old John was disturbed, wavering as a reed shaken in the wind.

1. “Art Thou He that should come, or do we look for another?” vs. 3.
2. John did not doubt the Deity of the Son of God.
3. John did not doubt his own salvation.
4. John did not doubt his call to the ministry. He had been the ordained forerunner of Christ, regenerated and called in his mother’s womb.
5. He did not doubt the plan and purposes of a Sovereign God.
6. John did not doubt the inspiration of the Scriptures.
7. He did not doubt the ability and truthfulness of God. Mat. 3:8-12.

JOHN was offended in Jesus and he tried to pass the buck, but in verse 6 we have the secret: “Blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me” (11:6). There John is in jail and the Lord won’t get him out! So he is offended, and he pouts because the Lord seems not to care about him anymore. Truly, everything the Lord did was OFFENSIVE. Mat. 13:57; Mat. 26:31. Does this awaken you? It ought to.

II. A DUMB GENERATION. – vss. 16 – 19. The more I look at that generation, the more I am convinced they are just like us. “Whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows.” Dumb (silent, uncomprehending) about 8 things:

1. Dumb about sin. Didn’t know God’s estimate of sin, had their own definition.
2. Dumb about the Law. Thought it was the way to God.
3. Dumb about the devil and demons. Bible records show they even courted the demon spirits.
5. Dumb about religion. “We have piped and you haven’t danced.” They thought that religion was in a form and a lot of noise.
6. Dumb about salvation. The old Pharisees knew nothing about how God saves sinners.
7. Dumb about John the Baptist. They accused him of having a devil. Beware of “they say.”
8. Dumb about Jesus. “Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners.” They asked Him where he lived, and He only replied, “Come and see.” The Pharisees missed it in every case. They saw the Lord’s works but understood Him not at all.

III. A DOOMED CITY – vss. 20-27. Here Christ foretells certain judgment on the cities who repented not. In our day when God is shaking the earth, nobody seems to be interested in repentance. “Repent or perish,” said our Lord.

1. Doomed in darkness. And if the light you have be darkness, how great is that darkness!

2. Doomed in unbelief. John the Baptist had preached to them, the 12 preached and the Lord Jesus preached. They believed none of it and refused to turn from their wicked religion. Our Lord was preaching in the most religious city that every stood on the face of the earth, and yet they believed Him not, despised and rejected Him. America is filled with religious cities; Greenville is the most religious city in the South, but Heaven-born, God-sent, old fashioned Holy Ghost salvation is as scarce as “hen’s teeth” here!

3. Doomed in Hell. “Shall be brought down to Hell” (vs. 23).

4. Doomed in judgment. (vs. 24). God judged Sodom and Gomorrah and they had no Bibles, no preachers, no spiritual light. What will God do to America with all the light we have rejected?

5. Doomed in error. God hid the truth from them. Don’t reply against a Sovereign God — maybe He has hid the truth from you! All these preachers running around trying to get somebody to “accept Jesus” — they preach a poor, helpless “Jesus” who could not save anybody! God saves His elect people, and He is going to do it, and nobody can stop Him or defeat Him.

6. Doomed in the sovereignty of God. I am afraid of all these preachers who are making fun of the sovereignty of God and His election. Heaven is God’s country and He has the right to say who will go there; He has the right to put wicked men in Hell — and He will! Rom. 9:15-16. “It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.” Ladies and gentlemen, your will can only sink you into Hell! My salvation is by the WILL of God.

IV. THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION – vss. 28 – 30. Oh, look at these words of the Lord Jesus and see how God saves sinners. Note five rests the Lord gives in saving the soul:

1. The rest of justification. God quickens the sinner, leaves him wallowing in his sins and that crowds him to Christ. When spiritually alive, the sinner cries out for justification. This is the first rest.

2. The rest of sanctification. God not only declares you righteous in Christ, but He separates you unto Himself. And He gives you the responsibility: “Take my yoke upon you!”

3. The rest of service. “Learn of Me.” If you are tired of your religious service, then it’s not the true service of Christ, for in His service is great rest and peace. Most preachers are anxious for a vacation or retirement; they have no peace in their ministry because it’s not serving Christ.

4. The rest of faith. Oh, how wonderful to commit your entire life, your wife, your children, all over to the Lord. Rest in Him; have faith in Him; turn them over to Him.

5. They will then have the rest in Heaven. If you have the rest of justification, the rest of sanctification, the rest of service and the rest of faith — all God-given rests — then you can be assured that the rest in Heaven will be yours at the last.

Conclusion: May God use these truths to awaken our hearts!

— B. B. Caldwell, circa 1973