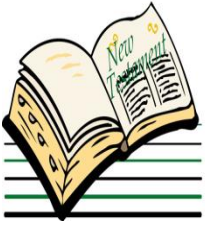


## Sermon Notes



Title: "Why Jesus Denounced Certain Places Where He Ministered"

Text: Matthew 11:20-24

Theme: Jesus responded to opposition and the failure to repent with chilling words. Ancient cities were destroyed for their wickedness. Yet, the wickedness of Israel was worse because they had received greater light. Accountability before God is heightened where the works and words of Christ are readily available and prevalent but ignored.

I. The Reason for Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ of  
Certain People (20)

II. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Two \_\_\_\_\_  
Towns (21-22)

III. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ Home Town  
(23-24)

## IV. Applications

A. Failure to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ to  
Christ and the Gospel of grace is essentially  
\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.

B. We are highly \_\_\_\_\_ in that the work of  
Christ is now \_\_\_\_\_ and the record of  
God's plan of salvation has been infallibly  
\_\_\_\_\_ for us.

C. Those who have been given greater objective  
\_\_\_\_\_ have a greater \_\_\_\_\_  
before God.

Next Week Read: Matthew 11:25-30

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. What did Jesus do with respect to certain towns (v. 20a)?
2. What does it mean to “denounce”?
3. Why did Jesus do this (v. 20b)?
4. What had these towns experienced that others did not (v. 20a)?
5. What two cities did Jesus first criticize? To what ancient cities did Jesus compare them (v. 21)? What happened to these ancient cities (see Ezekiel 28)?
6. What did Jesus say would have been their response had they had the opportunity to witness His miracles (v. 21c)?
7. What will be more bearable for these two ancient cities than for the two cities in Israel (v. 22)?
8. What third city in Israel did Jesus address unfavorably? What did Jesus say would be this city’s destiny (v. 23a)?
9. To what notorious ancient city did Jesus compare this city in Israel? What is the comparison (v. 23b)?
10. What will be the outcome for this notorious ancient city in the day of judgment compared to the town where Jesus did several mighty miracles (v. 24)?
11. Are there any implications we can draw from Jesus’ words that judgment will be “more bearable” for some than others?
12. Why was a failure to repent so serious in Jesus’ estimation, especially in view of the fact that other cities had not repented yet were not denounced as were these three towns?
13. In what sense is a failure to repent opposition to Christ?
14. Though the idea of “privilege” in recent days has received negative connotation from political, economic, and social standpoints, in what ways is “privilege” detrimental from a spiritual standpoint?
15. What is the real problem with “privilege”?
16. In what ways have you been given spiritual advantages? In what ways have you been spiritually disadvantaged?
17. How would Jesus respond to your use of the spiritual opportunities you have been granted?
18. How is the finished work of Christ and the completed revelation of God in Scripture a “mighty work” that places our generation in a position of responsibility beyond that of other eras and generations?