

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1927

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 30: INVITATION FROM JESUS

In the previous sermon we studied the instructions to the twelve apostles, but the Gospel of Matthew is not written chronologically. We don't know when the twelve fanned out into Galilee or when they returned. We just know that when Jesus was done with this assignment, He resumed traveling and teaching. **Matthew 11:1**

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Jesus and John the Baptist were second cousins, related via their mothers. Before Jesus started public ministry, He sought out John to be baptized. Then He spent forty days in the wilderness and was tempted by the Devil. John the Baptist had been arrested by Herod Antipas (son of Herod the Great) by the time Jesus finished with Lucifer's last temptation. Jesus started walking to Galilee when He received the news of John's imprisonment. **Matthew 4:12**

We don't know how long John the Baptist was kept in prison until he was beheaded. More than likely he must have gotten discouraged that Jesus did not use supernatural power to free him and he began wondering if his cousin really was the Messiah.

Matthew 11:2-3

Matthew is brief about John's disciples coming to Jesus for verification, but Luke gives more detail. **verses 4-5; Luke 7:19-23**

RECOGNITION

Jesus publicly recognized John the Baptist as the forerunner to prepare people for the Messiah. **Matthew 11:7-15; Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6**

REBUKING THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

The Jewish leadership believed that John the Baptist was demon possessed because of his diet and the way he dressed. He wasn't a drunkard or glutton. **Matthew 3:4**

They called Jesus a glutton and a winebibber because He ate and drank like a normal person, and even worse, He associated with sinners.

The God-man said that godly men are always criticized no matter how they live. It's a damned-if-you-do and damned-if-you-don't scenario where it's impossible to come out the winner. **Matthew 11:16-19**

REBUKING THE CITIES IN GALILEE

Jesus performed hundreds of miracles in the different cities of Galilee but the people did not repent even though Jesus preached on repentance. He pronounced strong curses upon the cities and their inhabitants. **verses 20-24**



THE UNITED STATES

What is Jesus saying today to the people of America? There were great moves of God during the last sixty years in the United States. There were a number of healing evangelists that televised their revival/healing meetings. A.A. Allen, Kathryn Kuhlman, Oral Roberts, Rex Humbard, T.L. Osborn, and many more. People testified how they had been healed and many of the healings were confirmed by medical doctors.

Then there were evangelists like Billy Graham and James Robison that featured crusade meetings across the nation that drew up to 500,000 attendees.

There was the spontaneous Jesus movement among the hippies that spread like a fire to the general population. Full Gospel Business Men's International Fellowship (Demos Shakarian), Campus Crusades (Bill Bright), and Youth with a Mission (Loren Cunningham) were several ministries that came into being, each catering to a different segment of the population.

Christian television expanded with the 700 Club (Pat Robertson), PTL (Jim Bakker), TBN (Paul Crouch) and hundreds of local television ministries throughout the United States. There were also Christian radio stations dotting the landscape across the nation.

Millions of Americans were born again and they got involved in local, state, and federal politics, school boards, etc. I was active on radio and local television during this time, pastoring and publishing books, articles and The Dove magazine.

Things began to change with the new millennium as a new generation showed no interest in Jesus. It was all about social media, video games, entertainment, rave parties, drugs, and ungodly music, movies and television as the number of secular television channels grew into hundreds.

Smart phones became an obsession as people became glued to these digital devices which kept them connected to the internet. No one was interested in Jesus.

It did not take long for the Galileans to forget about Jesus and the miracles He performed.

You might know that you are being manipulated and demons will insert thoughts into your mind, causing you to abandon Jesus and His love.

I recently had the carpet cleaned in my home. The young man (23 years old) did an outstanding job and tried to witness to me until he found out that I was a pastor. We had a great time discussing the Bible over lunch but I noticed his understanding of the Bible was shallow. When I told him about Billy Graham, he was not familiar with the name. How can young Christians be ignorant of the most well-known evangelist of the twentieth century?

PERSONAL INVITATION FROM JESUS

After Jesus cursed the cities of Galilee, He prayed and thanked God the Father that the heavenly things were hidden from people who thought too highly of themselves.

Matthew 11:25-27

Then Jesus gave an invitation to anyone who wanted to be blessed by Him. He promised rest and a light burden for those who were willing to take His yoke. **verses 28-30**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?