**Responding To The Mighty Works of Jesus**

Matthew 11:20-24

September 6, 2025

**Introduction**

We tend to be more aware of bad things than good. How do you respond when you hear of

Ebola outbreak in DR Congo…

Earthquake in Afghanistan…

Flash flood in Yemen …

Perhaps you think: I didn’t know, too far away, not in U.S., I’ll just go about my business

How do you respond when you hear of

Florida Hurricane Ian –$112B 2022

California Palisades wildfire, killed 85 people, destroyed town of Paradise 2018

Texas, Guadulupe River, 135 fatalities

Perhaps you think: I didn’t know, too far away, not in NY, I’ll just go about my business

How do you respond when you hear of

NYC flooding due to hurricane Ida in 2021

More than 4’ of snow in Buffalo in 2022

Tropical storm Debby in August 2024 flooded the north country, 5in H2O church

Perhaps you think: I remember it, but it didn’t really impact me personally, go about…

The point I am trying to make is, though I have described some very bad things

You probably did not personally respond very much and did very little about it

I think we can have the same response to very good things unless happens to you

I also think we may not respond properly to the good things God does in our city

I didn’t know, somewhere else, not in U.S., too far away, not me personally

Today we are going to look at Matthew 11:20-24 and Jesus’ rebuke of 3 cities for not

responding as they should to His mighty works. Parallel Lk10:13-15

**Context**

Matthew 11:1-19 we saw an unsatisfied generation… they had John and Jesus Christ

Like children in a marketplace playing: Wedding or Funeral

John the Baptist and JS, God sent, but people unsatisfied w both

Jesus just amplifies and applies the point to 3 cities that witnessed His mighty works

**I. Overview 20**

A. What – Jesus rebukes

Rebuke = sharp disapproval because of response/actions, denounce

B. Who – citizens of 3 cities in which most of His mighty works had been done

Mighty works means miracles

C. Why – because they did not repent

Repent = μετανοεω – change thinking, change mind and with the change a change

in direction of life attitudes and actions, change of heart

recall Mt 3:2,8 4:17 Job 42:6

**II. Details of Jesus’ Rebuke 21-24**

Two series of rebukes with explanation and comparison

A. Rebuke of Chorazin and Bethsaida 21-22

Woe to you Chorazin, Woe to you Bethsaida

Woe means sorrow, grief or misery, hear in the sense of condemnation

Chorazin – also Lk10:13, location uncertain

Bethsaida – also in Mk645 822 Lk910 1013 J144 1221, location uncertain

Mighty works done in U had been done in Tyre and Sidon repented in sack/ashes

Healing of blind man Mt9:27-31 Mk8:22

Feeding of 5000 Mt 14

Walking on water Mk6:45

Tyre and Sidon – often linked, Gentile cities evil, pagan, pride and wealth

Tyre – island nation, trade merchants, proud thought invincible

Solomon hired Hiram for wood materials for the temple

Seems to have been the capitol of the area we call Lebanon

Ezk263ff 2824ff  Zc93 withstood Babylon, defeated Alexander

Sidon – aggressive sea faring people associated with Tyre region

Repented in sack cloth and ashes

Jesus suggests they would have changed if they had seen His work

Later Mt 15:21 Jesus helps woman of Tyre and Sidon

More tolerabl for Tyre and Sidon in day of judgment than Chorazin and Bethsaida

Learn 1]God has degrees of punishment, 2]severest for those w revelation

Those with opportunity have a severer judgment

B. Rebuke of Capernaum 23-24

And you Capernaum – site still not certain

JS does not say ‘Woe to you’ though He is clearly implying by ‘and you’

Capernaum was the home of Jesus ministry for 3 years, words and works

Jesus singles them out

Exalted in heaven will be brought down to Hades

Exalted to heaven – privileged 2hv the ministry of JS heaven ambassador

Hades – the place of the dead, punishment

The mighty works done in you

Cleansing a leper 8:1-4 [probably Capernaum]

Centurions servant 8:5-13

Peters’s feverish mother in law 8:14-15

Demon possessed man 8:16-17

Paralyzed man 9:1-8

Restored to life the dead daughter of synagogue ruler 9:18-26

Woman bleeding for 12 years 9:20-22

had been done in Sodom

Sodom is the exemplar city of divine judgment in the Scriptures

Gn 13:13 18:20 19:14 Is1:9 Jer 23:14

It would have remained to this day – destroyed for its sin, if it had had the

mighty works of Jesus it would not have been destroyed

But I say 2U more tolerable 4land of Sodom in day of judgement than Capernaum

That is a stunning statement of seriousness of Capernaums sin

=>In all 3 cities, Jesus had performed mighty works, miracles, what was the response?

Indifference,disinterest,so what,not any personal impact, business as usual, ignore

the response should have been repentance, turning to God, hearts changed

Was not what it should have been???

**How should we respond to mighty works of Jesus?**

The mighty works in the Scripture we shld respond with belief and awe Ps191,14 Job425-6

Even the miracles Jesus did in the gospels with belief and awe

The mighty work of God on the cross – thank God, repent of sin, praise God, change life

E3:14-19 Ph2:5-11

The mighty works God did/still does in my life, things I attribute to divine intervention

God keeping me from death – 1970 fell asleep, near head-on US11

Birth of each of my children

Job at TU during seminary

Saving Katy while floating on the Brazos River in Texas

Set me free from this body of death – conversion to Christ

Not indifferent, Not disinterested, not business as usual, not ignore!!!

Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum were small cities – shld have responded to JS works

Our lives need to show that we have responded to the mighty works of Jesus