

## *SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS*

### Responding to Jesus     Matthew 10:21–11:30

*“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”* Matthew 11:15, ESV

**Day 1: Review Matthew 10:1-20. Read Matthew 10:21-42.**

1. Jesus paints a sobering picture of the opposition and hardship that his disciples can expect.
  - a. What promise does he make in verse 22 that offers a glimmer of encouragement?
  - b. Jesus then exhorts his disciples three times not to be afraid (vv. 26, 28, 31). What reasons does he give not to be afraid?
2. How does the fear of God differ from the fear of other people? Why is one kind of fear appropriate and the other not? (Isa. 8:11-13)
3. Most of us are not threatened with death or imprisonment for our faith. What does “disowning” (v. 33) Jesus look like for you? How can you “acknowledge” (v. 33) him instead? Pray.

**Day 2: Read Matthew 11:1-6.**

4. What does John the Baptist ask Jesus?
5. Why do you think John is having doubts about whether Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah? Consider the following:
  - a. Mt. 3:11, 12 versus, for example, 5:3-10; 9:35, 36
  - b. Mt. 9:14
  - c. Mt. 11:2; 14:3-5
6. How does Jesus’ response demonstrate that he is the Messiah?
  - a. Compare verse 5 with the following prophecies about Jesus: Isa. 35:5, 6; 61:1. (Hint: remember Matthew’s great interest in the way Jesus fulfills Scripture.)
  - b. Consider Acts 2:22 in light of Jesus’ answer and his ministry so far.
7. It may be a bit disconcerting for us that John the Baptist, whose entire life was devoted to preparing the way for Jesus, felt doubts about him—yet we may also be encouraged to realize that even such a man of faith experienced doubt. What can we do when we find ourselves beset by doubt? (Consider John’s example and Mk. 9:23, 24; Heb. 3:12-14.)

**Day 3: Read Matthew 11:7-19.**

8. What remarkable things does Jesus say about John the Baptist? (vv. 9-11a)
9. Jesus calls John “the Elijah who was to come” (v. 14)—a prophet greater than Elijah of the Old Testament. What does this tell us about John and his mission? (Mal. 3:1; Lk. 1:13-17; Jn. 1:6-9)
10. And yet—who is greater than John? (v. 11) Why? (Mt. 13:16, 17; 1 Pet. 1:10-12)

**Day 4: Read Matthew 11:20-30.**

11. The Old Testament records the destruction of Sodom and prophesies the punishment of Tyre and Sidon). Why is the woe Jesus pronounces upon Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum even greater? (vv. 21, 23; 12:41, 42; Lk. 12:47, 48)
12. How does Jesus describe himself in verse 29?
13. How does coming to Jesus, and being yoked to him, and learning from him, give us true freedom and rest?
15. In what other things besides Jesus do you sometimes seek “rest for your soul”? (v. 29)

**Day 5: Review Matthew 10:21–11:30.**

16. Throughout this passage Jesus is making extraordinary claims about himself—some of them clear, but more of them veiled. Examine the following to see the fuller picture.
  - a. What claims does Jesus make in 11:27?
  - b. The OT prophets pointed the people to God. To whom is Jesus constantly pointing people? (vv. 10:22, 24, 32-34, 37-40, 42; 11:6, 27-30)
  - c. John the Baptist is the messenger/prophet promised in Malachi 3:1 and 4:5; for whom is the messenger/prophet in Malachi preparing the way? Who then, is the fulfillment of these prophecies?
17. Write a prayer of worship and response to what you have learned this week.