Rest for the Weary
Matthew 11:20-30

Introduction
In chapters 11-12 there are three cycles of unbelief and belief.
• Chapter 11 – John’s question and the unbelief of the Galilean cities followed by a gracious invitation to believe in Jesus.
• Chapter 12:1-21 – Sabbath controversy followed by the hope of the Gentiles.
• Chapter 12:22-50 – The unforgiveable sin and evil generation wanting a sign followed by a statement about Jesus’ true family.

Why didn’t the people see who Jesus really is? Why didn’t they believe?

I. A Warning against Unbelief.
Verses 20-24

Korazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum form a triangle on the north side of the Sea of Galilee.

Capernaum would be the center of Jesus’ ministry for 18-20 months.

Some of the miracles Jesus performed at Capernaum included:
• Delivering a man from an unclean spirit.
• Healing Peter’s mother-in-law from a fever.
• Healing the Roman centurion’s servant.
• Healing the paralyzed man who was let down on his mat through the roof.
• Healing the woman who had a hemorrhage.
• Raising Jairus’ daughter from the dead.
• Healing a noble man’s son.
• Healing two blind men.
• Healing a mute man possessed by a demon.
In fact, Jesus did more miracles in Capernaum than in any other city. Why didn't they see it? They were blinded by their pride and unbelief. What did Jesus say about these cities? It would be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon than for you.

What does this passage teach us about God’s judgment?
- There will be a judgment of people and nations.
- There are degrees of punishment just like there are degrees of reward.
- The worst sin is unbelief.
- God’s judgment takes into account his contingent knowledge.

II. A Gracious Invitation. Verses 25-30

Jesus invites us to come to him just as we are.
- Weary – means tired and worn out.
- Burdened – describes the load we carry on our shoulders. We feel its weight even though it is unseen.
- We feel the weight of it all and Jesus invites us to come and give those burdens to him.

Jesus invites us to find our rest in him.
- It is rest for our souls.
- Jesus is the only one who can give us eternal life.
- It is only through Jesus Christ that we can come to know the Father.
- Only Jesus can satisfy our deepest thirst.

Jesus invites us to become his disciples.
- The yoke was a symbol of discipleship.
- The yoke keeps us on the same path.
- The yoke allows Jesus to take the lead.
- The yoke allows Jesus to bear the weight of our burdens.
**Conclusion**

Are you weary today?  
Are you in need of rest and refreshment?  
Come to Christ and leave your burdens with him.