

# **Informal Bible Study**

## **Discussion Guide for the Gospel of Matthew**

### **Chapter 11**

### **Verses 16-30**

#### **Overview**

Chapter 11 is another chapter where Matthew presents the speeches of Jesus. They group naturally into three sections. In verses 1-15, the focus is on John the Baptist and Jesus praising John as the greatest Old Covenant prophet. Then Jesus turns His attention to the generation of Jews before Him and speaks prophetic words to them. In the tradition of the Hebrew prophets, Jesus brings both a message of judgment (in verses 16-24) and a message of hope (verses 25-30), meant for two very different groups of people in Israel. Let's examine these messages of judgment and hope in verses 16-30.

#### **Questions**

1. In verses 16-24, Jesus is speaking to His generation in Israel and is pronouncing prophetic woes. To whom does He pronounce these woes?

2. In verses 16-19, how many groups of children are there?

Who do you think these two groups of children represent?

Some help with that: In verse 17, what do the children who call out to the other children say?

In verses 18 and 19, who takes on the role of the children calling out? Who sang the dirge, and who played the flute, so to speak?

In verses 20-24, Jesus identifies who it was who did not dance and did not mourn (ie, did not repent or respond to the call). Who?

3. A parallel to passage to Matthew 11:16-19 appears in **Luke 7:28-35**. Let's read that now.

Notice the two groups that Luke identifies. Who are they?

What one thing revealed where they stood?

4. Back in Matthew 11:20-24, what are Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum?

How about Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom?

What does **Luke 6:17-19** say about the people of Tyre and Sidon?

According to **Luke 7:1-10**, who did Jesus say was the greatest believer in Capernaum? How did Jesus put it?

5. What is presented in Matthew 11:25-26?

What two groups of people does Jesus contrast in verse 25?

What two kinds of things does Jesus contrast in verse 25?

Who are the wise and intelligent, in context?

Who are the infants?

What are “these things”?

6. There is a complete change in tone from verses 16-24 on the one hand to verses 25-30 on the other. Describe this change.

7. Who is Jesus addressing in verses 28-30?

What does He promise them?

8. In Matthew 11:29, Jesus quotes from **Jeremiah 6:16**.

What is the book of the prophet Jeremiah about? For help, see the handout on Jeremiah that we prepared for our book by book survey of the Bible.

Let's do some reading on the section of Jeremiah that surrounds 6:16. In fact, let's scan Jeremiah 5-7.

What is Jeremiah describing in chapters 5-7?

In what ways were the days of Jeremiah similar to the generation of John and Jesus?

What happened to Jerusalem and Judah not long after Jeremiah prophesied what he did in Jeremiah 5-7?

What is going to happen to Jerusalem not too long after Jesus spoke his prophetic words in the gospel of Matthew? Hint: what happened in AD 70?