

Matthew 11 : 20-30—Memory Verses, 28, 30.

**Golden Text**—Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.—Matthew 11 : 28.



20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not :

21 Woe unto thee, Chora'zin ! woe unto thee, Bethsa'ida ! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Si'don, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Si'don at the day of judgment, than for you.

23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell : for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sod'om, it would have remained until this day.

24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sod'om in the day of judgment, than for thee.

25 At that time Je'sus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

26 Even so, Father : for so it seemed good in thy sight.

27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father : and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father ; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me ; for I am meek and lowly in heart : and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

### THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus' home, when He was here on earth, was near the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, and most of His wonderful miracles had been done in and around these cities, and most of His simple and beautiful sermons had been preached there. In spite of this, few of the people who lived in those cities had, as yet, repented of their sins and become true disciples or followers of Jesus.

Jesus' heart was filled with sorrow, when He thought that, above all, His own home people had rejected Him, and one day He sadly rebuked them, saying, "Woe unto you, Chorazin ! woe unto you, Bethsaida ! For if I had done in the heat en cities of Tyre and Sidon the great works which I have done in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Now, I tell you truly, that, at the last day, God will deal less severely with the heathen people of Tyre

and Sidon than with you who have rejected His Son."

"And you, oh city of Capernaum", Jesus went on, "whom I have exalted by living and working in you, shall be thrust down into darkness, for if I had done in Sodom, that most wicked of all cities, the mighty works which I have done in you, its people would have repented, and it would not have been destroyed. And I say to you, that Sodom also will not be punished as you will be."

Yet there were a few simple, loving people in those cities who believed in Jesus as the Messiah and as their Saviour, and for these Jesus gave thanks to God in a short prayer. "I thank thee, oh Father", He said, "that Thou hast hid the things of Thy kingdom from those who think themselves wise, and hast shown them unto these trustful, childlike souls."