

"I Did It My Way"

Matthew 11:1-30

"... are you the Messiah, or should we look for someone else?"

"Go and report to John what you hear and see ..."

"To what can I compare this generation? "

"... if the miracles I did in front of you had been done in the Gentile cities, their people would have repented long ago ..."

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Matthew 11:1-15 The Evidence is There

Jesus is saying the evidence is strong ... then why not believe?

- Strong evidence is not 100% conclusive proof.
- But intelligent people, who cannot achieve 100% conclusive proof to answer a question, base decisions on the balance of probabilities.
- Can faith, hope, or love ever be compelled?
- Or must they be chosen freely?
- Can you ever have a free choice if there is only one option?

Matthew 11:16-24 Root of Childish Blindness

- What kind of evidence would be conclusive to you?
- Jesus says to the crowd: I HAVE PROVIDED THAT EVIDENCE.
- "It's YOUR tune, not MY tune!"
- Difference between CHILDLIKE and CHILDISH objections.

Matthew 11:25-30 The Overwhelming Prejudice

Jesus says we come with questions & doubts that are either:

- a) Childlike: honest, genuine inquiry – like John the Baptist ... OR ...
- b) Childish: based on the BIAS to *only believe what I want*

- The full meaning of discipleship includes *obedience*
- To have Jesus as a life-leader means to put Him first, to stop acting as if your SELF is your god, as if your choices trump His

When your SELF takes the place of GOD in your own life, it is an intolerable burden on your soul.

Jesus offers rest for your souls, will you take Him up on that offer? Will you take His yoke upon you and learn from Him?

For Further Study:

Reading: "The Reason for God", Timothy Keller. "Letters from a Skeptic", Greg Boyd. "Miracles", CS Lewis. "Miracles", Craig Keener.

Class: *The Reasonable Christian* Class, Creekside Church.

Session 1: Reason & Faith: Is Faith Fantasy?

Session 2: Does God Exist?

Session 3: Did Jesus Exist?

Session 4: Is the Supernatural Possible?

To Register: See the infodesk or office@creeksidechurch.ca