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THE NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE

As Jesus was teaching the multitudes (Matthew 11:20 NKJV) we see that: ***“He began to rebuke (upbraid) the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.”***

He spoke woe to Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum because they had heard his teaching and had seen the mighty miracles He had done, yet their hearts had not changed toward God. They had not repented of their sinful ways and turned away from them.

He said that in the time of judgement, it shall be worse for them than for Tyre and Sidon, or for Sodom and Gomorrah. Those cities had never received the word of God nor seen God’s mighty miracles. They lived in sin through ignorance of God. Since the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum had heard and seen, they were not in ignorance of God, yet they rejected Him.

They heard truth, they saw miracles, yet they would not repent. What does it mean to repent? Repentance is not simply saying “I’m sorry.” It means there is deep grief for the sin, then turning away from it. It is a change in direction and a change in behavior. When someone truly repents of how they have lived and sinned, they do not return to it. If they continue in the way of sin for which they “repented,” then it was no repentance at all.

It is a dangerous thing to hear God’s word and not believe, or to see His miracle working power and still not believe. Such ones will be condemned to hell (torment) in the afterlife unless they come to repentance and believe upon Jesus.

One must believe that Jesus (God in the flesh) died to pay for our sins and that He resurrected to life and lives now on heaven’s throne. Believe upon Him, repent of being a sinner, and confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord. He will change you from the inside and make you “a new man.” Old ways are left behind; it is a new life ahead.

Praise God for His power to change you into the newness of life.