

- Miracles validated the ministry of Christ. Even after all the miracles, many didn't believe in Him and many outright rejected Him, Matt. 4:23-25, 1 Cor. 15:6 (only 500), & Acts 1 (120).
- Broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many go that way. Narrow is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it, Matt. 7:13-14.

How to Avoid God's Wrath: Don't be critical or cold towards Christ:

1. **An Arrogant Assessment:** V16, "this generation," this is certainly those Jesus is speaking to and living in that day, but it also references to a quality of the time. In Matt. 12:39, it is an evil and adulterous generation. It describes the type of people at that time. V16-17, "who call out to the other children." Jewish families spent much of their family time in weddings and funerals. As the kids saw this, they played "wedding" and "funeral" with other children. But the kids didn't want to play wedding or funeral, because nothing could satisfy them. Jesus explains this to them:
 - V18, John came neither eating nor drinking, but they said he had a demon.
 - V19, Jesus came eating and drinking with sinners and people of all types and they called Him a glutton and a drunkard. But His signs and wonders proved His deity and power.
 - Jesus fed the hungry, healed all manner of diseases, raised the dead, and walked on water. Many still rejected Him. Jesus' life bore much fruit, John 15:8. Christ is over all things and before all things, Col. 1:15-20. He made peace through the blood of His cross, V20.
 - Those in the world can't know or understand the mind and will of God, the things of God are foolishness to those in darkness, 1 Cor. 2:12-16.
 - Christ has brought light to those in darkness, 2 Cor. 4:6. Believers know their state prior to Christ.
2. **An Arrogant Association:** V20, Jesus denounced cities of that day that saw the miracles and heard the preaching of John and Jesus but didn't repent and faithfully follow Christ. "Woe to you," is declaring judgement and sadness for the cities of Chorazin (V21), Bethsaida (V21), and Capernaum (V23). They were small towns who experienced the works of Christ. He healed everyone around, raised the dead, few were sick, if any, yet judgement is coming upon them. Jesus lived in Capernaum with Peter and Andrew, the people had ample opportunity to know and follow after Christ.
 - V21, Tyre and Sidon would have repented from their idol worship and wickedness if they would have seen the miracles Christ had done.
 - V23, Capernaum was front and center to the works and life of Christ, yet the judgement upon Sodom and Gomorrah would have remained if they had seen the miracles Jesus did.
 - i. Jesus healed the centurion's servant (Matt. 8:13), Peter's mother-in-law, (8:14-17), calmed the storm (8:27), healed a demon possessed man (8:32), the paralytic man (9:6), called Matthew (9:9), and continuing on He healed every kind of sickness and disease in the region (9:35).
 - This reveals that Christ knows every situation and outcome of His preaching and works, "they would have repented long ago."
 - This reveals that in some way the judgement of cities and people groups are a part of the final judgement upon them, as the cities that were mentioned would answer for the works they had done.
 - This is a warning to those who have been enlightened with the message of the gospel, those who tasted of the goodness of the message and works accomplished by God, for those who have felt the sorrow and emotion for their sin and witnessed the changed lives of those who claim to love Christ, and those who have learned and experienced the great wisdom of the Scriptures, it is dangerous for those, because if they fall away from the faith, it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance, Heb. 6:4-6.
 - i. There is a warning in Matt. 7:15-23, that many will say they know Christ, but He will declare, "I never knew you." This is a sobering call from Christ, to follow Him, and His word. It is a call to repent of sin and to turn to Christ.

Further Discussion and Application

The message of Christ and the person of Christ are challenging to the world. To believe that God came in the form of a man to die for the sins of those who were lost, causes the hearer to be offended, the unbeliever to continued hardness and the believer to sorrow and repentance. Why does Paul call the gospel message foolishness to the one who is perishing (1 Cor. 1:18) and to the natural man trying to understand God's ways (1 Cor. 2:14)? Why is proximity to Christ not enough for salvation? What must we do to be saved?

This message is meant for us to examine our hearts and to compare Scripture with our thoughts, attitudes, and deeds. Looking at Heb. 6:4-6, why is it so dangerous to be around the cross but never come to it to repent and receive forgiveness? Looking at Heb. 6:1-3, why does the Jew need to leave the Law of Moses behind? Why must we accept Christ as the perfect high priest? Looking at Heb. 6:7-8, what can you tell in the lives of those who hear the Gospel? What comes from a heart that has heard and received the word of God to save them? What comes from those who didn't?

As you reflect on this sermon series so far, what is your view of Jesus? Do you have a proper view of Him? Col. 1:28, is a warning to us to get Christ right in our thinking and actions. Do we obey His commands? Are we offended at His righteous standards? Are we embarrassed by defending His right as Sovereign to show mercy and extend salvation to some and others to punish for willful sin and wickedness? How can we help someone understand the grace of God and the wrath of God?