Rest in a Weary World (Matthew 11:28-30) 1/16/21

**Intro**

~ Statue of liberty is an emblem of freedom. Lady Liberty, With silent lips says, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.”

~ Jesus gives us an invitation for all who are tired and weary spiritually

~ We have a tendency to think what we go through is always the worst it has ever been. That’s because what we see, feel and experience is what we are most acquainted with

~ The culture Jesus was speaking to in Matt 11:28-30 is very much like ours

1. Matthew having written his gospel to the Jews is speaking to a Jewish audience that lived under Roman control. They had no say and no political voice. We today can feel the same way
2. It was an age of moral collapse. The old stern morality which had made Rome was breaking up like rotten ice. Marriage became a mere temporary convenience, which lasted for a time and then was laid aside.
3. It was an age of social unrest. It was an age of much despair in individual souls.
4. Taxes were high
5. As always, with the decay of faith came in the prevalence of suicide.

~ It’s under these condition Jesus cried out, “Come unto me.”

~ The scene – Imagine all the people who would be passing by as Jesus gives this lesson on rest. Disciples, a man walking home from a hard day at work on a farm, a fishermen, the person who works in the market, there’s some religious leaders standing nearby, possibly a poor person, maybe a tax-collector walking by – they need to come

Outline

Request – come

Requirement – weary and burdened

Result - rest

Replacement – His yoke for our weariness and burdens

Reason – The heart of Jesus is meek and lowly

**Text**

Request – Come unto me

* Come is an emphatic request/invitation we see from Jesus often in scripture
  + Is 55:1 everyone that is thirsty come to the waters (come if spiritually thirst)
  + Matt 14:29 He told Peter to get out of the boat and come to him on the water
  + Matt 16:24 Jesus said if any man will come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Christ (come used in reference to discipleship)
  + Jn 1:39 two of John’s disciples heard John says Jesus is the lamb of God so they followed him and they asked Jesus where he was staying and he said, “come and see.” (come and follow Christ)
  + Jn 1:46 Philip went and told Nathanael about Jesus. Nathanael says to Philip can any good thing come out of Nazareth and Philip tells, “come and see.” (come for salvation)
  + Jn 4:29 The woman who Jesus witnessed at the well went into the city and said to the men of the city, “come see a man which told everything I ever did.” (come to Christ for salvation)
  + Jn 7:37 if any man is thirsty let him to me and drink (come to satisfy spiritual thirst)
  + Matt 18:11 the son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost but now he’s inviting us to come to him – What a great request/invitation
  + At the beginning of this chapter John sent his disciples to Jesus to ask Jesus if he was the one to come or do we look for another. Jesus then closes this chapter with and invitation based on he being the answer to John’s question – come to me

Requirement – all who labor and are heavy laden.

* The requirement is a very simple one – not hard at all - If you’re troubled and tired then come
* I had to look it up to confirm it but American Express has a credit card called the Centurion (or the black card) that has a $10,000 iniation fee and an annual fee of $5,000. It’s a card used by the rich and famous. It’s by invitation only. It’s rumored to have a requirement of an annual income of 1 million per year. Another person said that’ not true but you must spend at least $250,000 a year on your card and pay it off. Those are some stiff requirements
* Jesus’ requirements are very simple – be fatigued and heavily laid upon
* Labor and heavy laden - The first an active, the second a passive participle, exhibiting the active and passive sides of human misery. *Robertson*
* The idea of toil refers to what we may call the active side of life, to what we do or attempt to do
* Labor – fatigued from hard work (those who are laboring to achieve spirituality under the religious system the scribes, Pharisees and elders had put upon the people
* Heavy laden – to place a burden on. The picture is of an animal that has been loaded down with the burden of carrying merchandise, or stuff. It can also be used metaphorically of being loaded with down with ceremony and rites. It can also refer to spiritual anxiety that comes from trying to perform spiritually
* The term “heavy laden” or “burdened” refers to the passive side, to that which we bear or endure.
* Frequently this latter is a condition added to, or even responsible for, the former. We may be toiling while we are heavy laden, or our work may actually be toil because while we work we have also to bear a heavy burden
* Heavy laden – People in attempting to live up to the impossible and heretical religious system the religious leaders had established had been overcome by guilt, condemnation and falling short of God
* A large portion of the whole of our burdens are self-imposed ones are. The burdens imposed by carelessness and thoughtlessness, by sin in the present and in the past, by the force of evil habits which have been allowed to grow unchecked, by our own decision
* There’s two senses here I think Jesus can be referring to: 1) spiritually [most important] and 2) culturally
  + Spiritually – from the religious load the religious leaders put the people under
  + Culturally – from the world condition at that time
* Jesus came to ease the burden of those who were “put upon” by the religious leaders and their false religious system
* When Sam was small he watched Thomas the Tank Engine. Nice, clean and moral show. They used this expression in the show, “put upon.” Percy feels “put upon” by the work he has to do
* The Saviour here, perhaps, refers primarily to the Jews, who groaned under the weight of their ceremonial laws and the traditions of the elders, Act\_15:10. *Barnes*
  + Lk 11:46 *And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.*
  + Acts 15:10 (Paul said to Pharisees) *Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*
* If you’re burnt out, struggling, wore out because of religion or our culture come to Christ

Result – (The result is rest) Jesus will give you rest

* Rest (anapauō) to repose (literally or figuratively, remain; by implication to refresh: - take ease, refresh,
* This is rest from the religious burden of trying to live up to God’s standards in our flesh or from world
* This rest is from being burdened by toiling and being laid upon by life
* Ps 23:1-*3 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. :2  He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3  He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*
* Heb 4 speaks about a faith rest for the people of God

After Jesus tells us to come he tells us to replace our burden with something – Jesus’ yoke

Replace – Replace our heavy burden for Jesus’ yoke and learn from him

* Yoke (zugos) to join, especially by a “yoke”); a coupling, that is, (figuratively) servitude (a law or obligation); also (literally) the beam of the balance (as connecting the scales): - pair of balances, yoke.
* Instead of taking on burdens from the world yoke up to Jesus because his burdens are light
* Jesus summarizes this wonderful call with this...His yoke is light and the burden is easy because He bears it with us. Perhaps many times we take up the wrong burdens, serving and decisions
* When training a new animal (such as an ox) to plow, ancient farmers would often yoke it to an older, stronger, more experienced animal who would bear the burden and guide the young animal through his learning.
* If your yoke is hard and your burden is heavy, then it isn’t His yoke or burden, and you aren’t letting Him bear it with you. Jesus said it plainly: My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
* Replace our struggling to do things our way with submitting to Jesus’ will
* All who are truly subject to Him find rest of heart in the midst of all the cares of life as they learn of Him,
* A yoke is designed to curb the will and bring one under control. He who exchanges sin’s heavy burden for the glorious yoke of subjection to the Lord finds it blessed indeed to serve so good a Master.
* The irony is we replace our toil and burdens for submitting our will to Christ
* Freedom is found in submitting to Christ
* My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Many shrink from submitting to His yoke, fearing it may involve greater sacrifices than they are ready to make. But all who acknowledge His authority and blend their wills with His find they enter a rest such as the weary of this world never know.
* We yoke ourselves up to Christ
* The yoke means coming to Christ in 1) submission 2) subjection 3) learning
* Instead of trying to live life wearily, in our own strength and intellect we submit to Christ’s way of living

Reason – Jesus is meek and lowly In heart (I love this point because it shows us the kind of master we have)

~ Meek and lowly in heart teaches us the grace of God

~ This doesn’t teach us about a hard taskmaster as those Egyptian taskmasters who made the Israelites toil hard to find materials to make brick and beat them if they didn’t – but about a compassionate master

~ We have a God who knows our frame and knows that were made of the dust (Ps 103:14)

~ He pities his children (Ps 103:13)

~ We have a sympathetic high priest who understand the infirmities of our flesh (Heb 4:14-16)

~ He’s the good shepherd (Jn 10)

~ He’s the humble servant who fulfills Isaiah 42:1-4 in Matthew 12:18-20 (he doesn’t break the bruised reed or put out the smoking flax)

~ There’s a time when God demands from us and there’s a time when he compassionate to us and it seems to depend on the season of life. If we’re sloppy and negligent spiritually we have a God who admonishes us to run the race and be diligent spiritually

~ In this chapter he encourages John yet rebukes Chorazin & Bethsaida for being unrepentant

~ Go back to the beginning of this chapter when he defended the weakness of John the Baptist’s faith. Jesus defended him and made him out to be the greatest human being to ever live = meek and lowly of heart

~ Then as we have here in this passage – come when we’re fatigued, overworked, and tired and with heavy demands placed up on ---to this he says come and he will give us rest

~ Take up his will because often it’s our will that makes us fatigues and tired and anxious

Result – Jesus will give you rest

~ Jesus yoke is easy and his burden is light

~ Laboring for Christ is easier than laboring for the world and its rewards

~ Christ will give us spiritual rest in the midst of a difficult, wearisome and laborious world

~ The rest which Christ gives is not rest from toil, but rest in toil. That toil may be excessive, may be incompatible with health, may be very slightly remunerative, may be accompanied with conditions which are disagreeable, painful, depressing; but Christ does not emancipate the individual from this toil

~ Rest while we continue to serve, labor, pray, preach, share Christ

**Conclusion**

~ If we’re weary we need to replace/exchange our burdens while we do the work of Christ

~ If we’re fighting God’s will – submit to him

~ If we’re fighting the wrong battles – take up the Lord’s battles

~ If we’re tired spiritually – come and find rest in fellowshipping with Christ

~ There’s a rest from sin, the world, our labours, our battles in Christ

~ Noah's dove couldn’t find rest for the soles of its feet, until it returned to the ark

~ We won’t find rest until we return to the Lord in all that we’re facing

One invitation - Come

Two exchanges – his yoke

Two rests

We live in a world full of

Social unrest

Political unrest

Societal unrest

Financial unrest

Covid unrest

There is a rest to be found in Christ

When we don’t get enough rest we’re sluggish, can’t function at full capacity, can’t think clearly, don’t have enough energy, can’t focus

We need to find rest for our souls

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

Mat 11:29  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.

Mat 11:30  For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Rest

Anapausis (Matt 11:28; Rev 4:8 the four beasts rest not night and day and worship the lamb)

an-ap'-ow-sis

From G373; intermission; by implication recreation: - rest.

katapausis

kat-ap'-ow-sis

From G2664; reposing down, that is, (by Hebraism) abode: - rest.

Total KJV Occurrences: 9

rest, 9

Act\_7:49, Heb\_3:11, Heb\_3:18, Heb\_4:1, Heb\_4:3 (2), Heb\_4:5, Heb\_4:10-11 (2)

Scritures

Ps 37 There is a rest for those who wait on the Lord

Matt 11:28-30 There is a rest for weary and heavy laden

Heb 4 There is a rest for the people of God

OT

Ps 37:7 62:5 (same Hebrew word is 1826)

Is 28:12

Jer 6:16

Means to have rest

1 Come to Christ

2 Faith

3 Cease from your own works