

Title: Rest For The Weary

Text: *Matthew 11:25-30*

Take your Bibles, please, and open them to the 11th chapter of Matthew. Perhaps the most dearly loved of all invitation of our lord is this one in Matthew 11. And I would like to begin reading at verse 25.....Matthew chapter 11 beginning at Vs 25 on the subject: REST FOR THE WEARY.

(Read Matt. 11:25-30)

Let us Pray

This morning I would like to take you into the depth of Matthew in this great text of three verses, ~~Vs~~ 28-29-30. I want to go with you into some precious truths from the Word of God. Truths that ~~are~~ ^{is} needful for every christian. We have need of rest. Let's face it. Most of us as christians are just plain tired. We are worn ~~out~~. Exuished from all of our business and activities. There never was a day in the history of the church when so many things are going on. You are busy. I am busy. We are all busy. And sometimes it seems that we cannot go on anymore.

REST FOR THE WEARY.

(C) Before we look into this text, I believe we need some background, *as to the meaning of the term "Rest"*
~~First of all, what kinds of rest do we find in the Bible?~~ We are talking about rest for the weary. Now, what kinds of rest are there in the Bible?

Turn
~~Go~~ to the Book of Hebrews, please, Hebrews chapter 4. Now, in Hebrews chapter 4, you have beautifully summarized what are at least three basic concepts of rest as God has them in his word. Three kinds of rest. There might be more. But there are at least these three which are very clear. Three kinds of rest taught in the Bible

(D) You will notice in Hebrews chapter 4 verse 3 these words: "For we who have believed enter into rest." "We who have believed enter into rest."

So, The first kind of rest that God has is belief in Jesus Christ. That gives rest to a weary heart. A heart that is burden down with its own sin and guilt and condemnation, that has no where to turn, that sees the sin of its

life and the results from it. There is rest if you will only believe in Jesus Christ. That is one kind of rest.

(2) Now, there is a second kind found down in verse 8 and 9: "For if Joshua".

Now, some of you who have the KJ version will have the word "for if Jesus". But if you will notice the footnote, it is Joshua. Joshua and Jesus as far the original language come from the same root word. But it is Joshua here in Hebrews 4:8, obviously from the content. "If Joshua had given them rest." It is referring to the children of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness and then they went into Canaan under Joshuas leadership. Now, ^{if} if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God."

So, WHAT IS IT TALKING ABOUT? It is talking about a future time of rest. And I believe it is referring to the one thousand year reign of Christ upon the earth. A future day. Israel's hope was not invested simply in the land of Canaan. That was one kind of rest. But there remains a future rest. Joshua spoke of it. The prophets spoke of it. It is a future day. And we have yet to experience that kind of rest. This rest will be world ~~wide~~/wide. A day the world has not yet seen. World wide rest.

(3) There is a third kind of rest. It is ~~also~~ found in Vs ¹⁰ and 11. (Read)

Now, folks we need something ^{straightened-out} ~~strange~~ in our minds. When Israel came out off Egypt, that is a symbol, the redemption from Egypt is a symbol of our salvation. When Hebrews is talking about unbelieve or disobedience in Vs 11, it is not talking about the unbelief of non-christians. Not that at all. When Israel came out off Egypt they had redemption.

Also, Cannon was not a symbol of heaven. Many of our songs, you know: I WILL NOT HAVE TO CROSS JORDAN ALONE, OR, ROLL JORDAN ROLL.....These song writers often thought of going over Jordan as going into Canaan land. And to them it was a sign of heaven. BUT NOT SO IN THE BIBLE.

Cannon in the Bible is VICORY...VICTORY. Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker was God. And so did the Jews. They weren't thinking that this was eternity in Canaan. They looked for something better. And Hebrews makes that perfectly clear.

So, Canaan was a symbol of victory and rest. And notice that the children of Israel in the wilderness had already received redemption from Egypt. And if you compare the typology over to Christians today..Christians have been saved by the blood of the lamb, but we may be wondering around in the wilderness. We haven't got into Canaan land, yet. Canaan the place of victory and rest in the Lord.

And so, some of us, because of sin or unbelief will wonder in the wilderness for years and never get to the place of rest in our life.

O.K. if you have followed all of this explanation, there are three kinds of rest. ONE..when you come to Jesus, there is rest. TWO..there is a future rest. A world wide rest to the people of God under the leadership of the Messiah. AND THIRD..there is a rest to the Christian who has learned to move into victorious Christian living. This third kind of rest is what Jesus is dealing with in our passage. So, let me read our passage once again.
Matthew chapter 11 verses 28 through 30 (Read)

Now, I would like to share this passage with you in just four simple ways.....

(1C) ~~First of all~~, I would like you to notice, the people who need God's rest.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO NEED GOD'S REST? According to this passage there are two groups. There are those in Vs 28 who are WEARY; and there are those who are HEAVY-LADEN.

(1D) This word "weary" is a word meaning "exhaustion". Do you feel that way sometimes? I certainly do. Jesus said: "Come unto me all of you who are "exhausted." So, if you are literally worn out and tired, then this passage is for you. For those who are exhausted.

(2D) The second word "heavy-laden" has an interesting meaning. Turn in your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke. In Luke chapter 11 verse 45 we have a usage of this word. And it comes in the midst of a group of woes that Jesus is pronouncing upon the religious leaders of His day. And one in that group of religious leaders is a lawyer. Those who interpret the Mosaic law.

Now notice what Jesus says beginning at Vs 45: "And one of the lawyers 'said to Him in reply, Teacher, when you say this, you insult us too.' But he said, 'Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens (that is our word heavy-laden) burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers.'"

Now, the whole content of the passage about Pharisees and lawyers is dealing with the burdensome requirements of the Mosaic law.

So, with this in mind, come back to Matthew chapter 11. And let's read Vs 28 again. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all who are exhausted and are heavy-laden." And if you take the meaning in Luke 11, the word "heavy-laden" would refer to those who are burdened down with all the Mosaic law style of living. That is, following a legalistic set of doing things. Of working your christianity as though it were a system. And, thus, it becomes a great ^{weight} burden on your shoulders.

How many new christians ^I have seen who in the joy of their faith in Christ, all of a sudden find themselves involved in the whole system of trying to work themselves into some kind of acceptability with God. And consequently there is discouragement, frustrations, and disappointments. Result..they go out the back door as fast ^{OR check here} as they come in the front door.

And then there are the older christians...Christians who have toiled and labored in the church. And because of too many committee meetings they have burned out. And, thus, once they were active in worship and Bible study, but now, they come only to worship once in awhile.

Jesus said: "Come unto me all you who are exhausted and who are ^{weight} burdened down with all the requirements of the law.

Let me ask you... Is this your way of living the christian life? I do this...I don't do this....I do this....I don't do this...? And before you know it you are absolutely tired out. You are discouraged or frustrated.

And there is no joy or peace in your life. ^{Well, dear friends, ~~Jesus is~~ NOTICE what Jesus He IS NOT SAYING to STOP YOUR SERVICE. BUT He is saying} IS saying to us.."Come unto me....Come unto me." And this just expanded my mind into some thrilling thoughts about what the Lord Jesus wants to do in my life. "COME UNTO ME!".. [You know, it is so easy, isn't it, to get all wrapped up in doing "THINGS." I am going to do this for the Lord...I am going to do that....I am not going to do so and so....And it is all us.... DO...DO...DO...And we hear it constantly. [Yet, Jesus said, "Come unto me and I will give you rest. So...these are the people who need rest. And this includes everyone of us here this morning.

(24) Now, ^{hardly} secondly, who is the person who gives rest? Of course the answer is JESUS. But, there is something else that I want to share with you here. The verse says "COME TO ME"...You know, it is surprising how many people when they say they are going to come to Jesus, usually ^{mean} come to one of his workers...or, they come to one of the programs, or they come to one of the church services. JESUS SAID: "COME TO ME". And that is our problem: In trying to have victory, and live the abundant life, even though we have been Christians for many years, we lose sight of the fact that Jesus is everything

Jesus said: "I am the vine and you are the branches. He that abides in me and I in him the same bring forth much fruit. For apart from me you can do WHAT?...ZERO...NOTHING...."

"COME TO ME, AND I".... Now, it is interesting that in the original language you don't have to put a pronoun "I" in there. It is already in the verb. For example: You could put a verb form there "I WILL". And I would read it "I WILL" because it is in that form. I would know that it is "I WILL". But here is an example to lay emphases. You have the word "I" added separately from the verb. It is in the verb. But we put in another one. It is like saying: "I...I WILL".....

Jesus is trying to tell us something. I just want to share three things about the person who gives rest.

(1) Number one, Jesus is the source of this rest. I will give. He is the source. Never mistake anything else. Never take anything else as a substitute. It is Jesus who will bring this kind of rest to your life. I will give.... He is the source of that rest.

(2) secondly ~~Something else hit my mind.~~ Down in Vs 29 He says "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me..." "ME"...Learn from Me..." He is the complete, absolute satisfaction for this rest I am seeking....

"Learn of what"?...Learn of the way I am going to show you how to live? NO...learn of whom?...Learn of Me...

Complete satisfaction is in Christ for this rest. LEARN OF ME...

(3) But, there is a third thing about this person. He says in Vs 29: "I am gentle and humble in heart"...I am gentle and humble in heart. And what He is trying to say is that He is the secret to rest. That what He is as a person is the secret to the rest that He is offering you. LEARN OF ME... WHY?...for I am gentle and humble in heart....A good translation for "gentle" or "Meek"(KJ) is "strength under control"...I am gentle and humble in heart.

Now, you are not going to like this: But here it is....I am so humble I am like a rug and people can walk all over me.....I told you you wouldn't like it...

How many christians say: "Well, there is a point to which you can go." "You just can't let people shove you around and walk all over you."....Well, the Bible tells you so. In fact in Ephesians chapter 4, it says that we are to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called will all humility. The word "humility" comes from two words. One, meaning: a rug or carpet. And the other meaning "to walk on."

Now, you say you want rest. You are exhusated and burden down. O.K... we are going to learn from Jesus. ^{Why Believe} He is the one who gives rest. And what does he say? "I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART."

Tuff, isn't it...³Hard to accept...That means that I am going to be ~~so~~ humble that I am going to let people walk on me.

You say: "Boy, that goes against my nature." Well, that is the problem. You see, our nature is against God's program. Our nature is a selfish one. And it is prone to say: "I want to insert my rights." But, the divine life of Christ in us is opposite.....And that is what Jesus is trying to say here. I am the person who gives rest. I will give complete satisfaction. But you must learn from me. I will give it. But let me tell you seomething. You had better learn who I am. I am gentle and humbel in heart. [And there is the secret to having that rest that you are desiring. As long as the "self" ~~is~~ is first in your life, and "self" is the opposite of "gentle and humble", as long as it is demanding its own way, its own rights, then we shall never have rest....NEVER...LEARN OF ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART...

This Bring us to point B - The Provision For Rest

(3C) Now, ^{so find out all} ~~it~~ ^{Jesus gives us the} ~~action~~ ^{we really need} And this provision is in the form of three verbs. ^{rest}

Number one, Vs 28...."COME".....

Number two, Vs 29 ..."TAKE"....And Third, Vs 29...."LEARN"..

Three verbs....three commands....Jesus is ^{Telling} asking us to do something....

Here is the action we are to take ^{we want} His provision for rest...

(1E) Number one, "COME". That is an invitation...."COME"....

You know, I believe the word "come" is one of the most beautiful words in the English language. And I believe it is beautiful because Jesus used it all the time. AND here in Matthew 11 he says "COME TO ME"....It is a word of invitation.....COME TO ME.....That is where you have to start...COME....

(2E) Then, you have to TAKE...Vs 29.....You have to take His yoke upon you... The "come" is the invitation. The "take" is our responsibility. And here is where it gets hard. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU.

Now, let me try and picture this. The "yoke" that ~~they~~^{we} are talking about was a wooden structure. It wasn't iron or metal. It was wooden. And the ~~carpenter~~^{Farmer} would form this wooden yoke for two oxen. And what the farmer did was, he would put an experienced ox under the ~~one~~^{Right} side of the yoke. The other side of the yoke was often ~~empty~~ left without any oxen under it. So, that the experienced ox would ~~learn to~~ bear the whole burden of the plowing. But, when you wanted to teach another ox how to wear the yoke and to bear the burden of the plowing, all you did was to put him into the harness ~~on~~^{on} the ~~other~~^{Left} side of the yoke. Actually he did not bear any of the burden at all. The experienced ox was bearing the whole load. ~~He~~^{The in-experienced ox} was learning.

(3E) And the point here that Jesus is teaching is to take the yoke and learn as an ox would who is inexperienced. He is inexperienced and he ~~will~~ would be along side off the experience one....YOU SEE.....This is fantastic....

And what Jesus is saying is: that we will never have the rest that we desire until we can come under His yoke. And the thrilling thing to me is that we ~~don't~~^{you} bear the ~~load~~^{load}. ~~Christ~~^{Yoke} is bearing the ~~yoke~~^{Load}. It is his yoke. It is his burden. It is not mine. [His commandments are not grievous. It is a joy to walk with my saviour...WHY?....Because He is bearing the load. All he ask of me is to come under, ~~submit to~~ his yoke....And he says to me: "Don't worry. Cast all your care upon me. For I care for you. I will bear all your burdens. You don't have a thing to worry about. This is my yoke. Just walk under it and learn from me....."

To me that is tremendous.....It is exciting....to learn from Jesus.... The word "learn" is a daily processes...^{a habit of life} learn from me....The taking the yoke is a first step. We might say: "SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD."

It is a step of outright total commitment. Lord, I want ~~you~~ ^{your} yoke and I am going to take it. I am going to let you govern and rule my life no matter what. And then the daily process comes in a "learning." We plow along in the fields of this world. ^{But} He is bearing the yoke. And we are just under there learning. But, this is a daily processes of learning about Jesus Christ. COME....TAKE.....LEARN...This is the action we are to take.

(2D) Now, secondly, concerning this provision of rest, notice the assurance that he gives to us. And I would like you to notice Vs 30: "For my yoke is easy, and my ~~Load~~ ^{Load} is light."

(1E) Do you know what I discovered here? I discovered two words which are very important. The words "easy" and "load". The word "easy" is the word for "well fitted." "Well fitted" or "fit to use". So, Jesus is saying that his yoke is "well fitted." You see, every farmer knew that the yoke had to fit the ox correctly. So, ^{Jesus} he is saying that the yoke that he has for ^{you} you to bear is exactly what you need.

It seems that we complain a lot to the Lord. "Lord, you don't know what I have to go through. I have all these burdens. I have all these troubles." Why, the Lord ^{knows} ~~does~~ to. ~~In fact, he gave it to you~~ It is the yoke that is perfectly designed for ^{you} you. It is well-fitted for ^{you} you. It is exactly what ^{you} you need. My yoke is well-fitted to you.

(2E) And then secondly, Jesus said "My Load". And this really thrilled me. Because the word ~~load~~ "load" or "burden" (KJ) is the same word in Vs 28 translated ^{heavy} ~~heavy~~ "heavy-laden." ^{Now, do you see The Contrast}

In the one case He says "come to me, all who are exhausted and ^{weight} ~~burden~~ down with all the requirements of the law. And the next case he is saying "I have my own kind ^{of burden} ~~like~~ that.".....

But, my kind is different from that kind. In that mine is light. while the other is heavy. As he said to the lawyer. And as he made constant referrence to the Mosaic requirement as being HEAVY BURDENS TO BEAR.... But, then he said that mine isn't heavy at all. It is light. In fact you wouldn't even know that it is on you. HOW ABOUT THAT?

Let's turn to one passage over in 2 Corinthians. 2 Corinthians chapter 4

And notice this in comparison to the word "light". 2 Cor 4:16-18(Read)

Vs 17..."Our light affliction".....The Bible says we were called to suffer. God has a burden for us to bear. But it is light. It is light.

For you to live under a system....a way of doing things.....to judge one's christianity by what you do or fail to do....to operate as if God **was** patting us on the head every time we did something that we thought was good, is going to be a heavy burden.

But, you come under the yoke of Christ, Oh, there will be burdens, but they will be light. It will be light in comparison....A LIGHT BURDEN.

(4C) Then, finally, I want to say this. That here in these three verses we have a tremendous promise of rest. And this is guaranteed by the Lord Jesus himself. DO YOU REALLY WANT REST? DO YOU WANT REST? And I am ^{Talking} ~~talk~~ more than simply setting back and saying "I don't want to work for the Lord anymore." "I am going to stop all that I am doing."

You know what I have ^{discovered in Jesus a pastor} ~~found~~? Some of the people who outwardly look to be the busiest, ^{and} ~~are~~ also the people inwardly who are at rest...

So, just to say: "I don't want to do anything anymore. I want to just set back and rest in the Lord." That is not it. The rest that ^{Jesus} God is talking about is inside of you. And it has ^{Nothing} ~~nothing~~ to do with external activity at all.....REST.....A TREMENDOUS PROMISE HERE.

Vs 28: "COME"....THEN THE PROMISE "I WILL GIVE YOU REST."

Vs 29: "TAKE"....THEN THE PROMISE: "YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOUL."

Now, notice: Here is the invitation: "COME, and I will give it"....TAKE, and you shall find rest for your soul.....Tremendous promise.....

Some have said that we have in this passage in vs 28 the invitation to those outside of Christ

"Come"; ~~christian~~, to me. Come to me. And I will give you rest... TAKE my yoke. Oh, what a term of discipleship. Will we or ^{will we not} ~~will we~~ we... We are faced with that decision. There is our responsibility. Take the yoke. Will we or willn't we?

Rest

and victory

And then daily learn of me. And you will find rest, ~~for your soul,~~

~~LET US CLOSE IN PRAYER~~

to your Christian Life!

In The Bible There are three kinds of Rest. (Heb 4)

- (1) ~~Physical~~ Rest That comes when you receive Christ - Salvatic rest
- (2) Christian rest - comes through having victory in daily living
- (3) Eternal rest - when Christ comes again / or we go home to meet Him.

IN The name of The FATHER, The Son, and The H.S

SHall We close In Prayer