

Come to Me, Take My Yoke and Learn from Me

I. INTRODUCTION

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. 26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. 27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. 28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Mt 11:25-30)

- A. *You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent:* When Jesus says, “wise and prudent” he is referring primarily to people who considered themselves spiritually wise, discerning, and self-sufficient. The way of the kingdom is that spiritual revelation and understanding are reserved for the “*childlike little ones.*”

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? (1 Cor 1:18-20)

- B. *All things have been delivered to Me by My Father:* This is an enormous statement about Jesus’ identity, authority, and unique relationship with the Father. Jesus is saying that the Father has placed “*all things*” into the Son's hands. In this context, that especially includes divine authority and the revelation of the Father. Jesus continues with “*no one knows the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*” The Father has so entrusted His saving revelation to the Son that the Son is the one who reveals the Father to mankind. Jesus isn’t merely one teacher who knows a lot about God but rather access to the knowledge of God rests with Him. *Matthew 11:27*, points toward the Father's entrusting to the Son authority, revelation, judgment, salvation, and the accomplishment of God's redemptive purposes.

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Jn 14:6)

35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. (Jn 3:35)

- C. *the Son wills to reveal Him:* This shows Christ's sovereign authority regarding the realm of revelation. Jesus is not merely passing along information. He possesses the authority to reveal the Father. We know the Father only because Jesus chooses to make the Father known to us.

18 No one has seen God at anytime. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (Jn 1:18)

6 I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the World. 7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. (Jn 17:6-8)

25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them. (Jn 17:25-26)

II. COME TO ME

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Mt 11:28)

- A. Come to Me: Here we have the first invitation and instruction. What a glorious invitation from the One who possesses all things from the Father who wills and desires to make the Father known. Because of the person and work of Jesus we can approach God with boldness and confidence.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need. (Heb 4:16)

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 Let us draw near with a true heart... (Heb 10:19-22)

- B. This invitation is broad as it is issued to the “whosoever.” It is issued to the thirsty, the shamed, the rejected, the guilty, the Jew, the Gentile, the young and the old. There is a promise that He will “by no means cast out” those who come to Him. He declares, “Let the children come unto me.”

37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out. (Jn 6:37)

25... “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die...” (Jn 11:25-26)

11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Rom 10:11-13)

43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins. (Acts 10:43)

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirst come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. (Rev 22:17)

13 Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt 19:13-14)

- C. Jesus has the solution to every problem, He has the resources to answer every need, He has the desire, eagerness, and heart to open His hand and satisfy every living thing. He calls out to the whosoever and invites us. He says, “*come to me*” for I have all that you need.
- D. All of human history says we will go to all sorts of other places to get answers, satisfaction, healing, pleasure, council... etc. Our natural bent in our fallen state is to look to ourselves. The way of man is to substitute the “*eternal water of life*” with cisterns that are incapable of holding water at all.

13 For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water. (Jer 2:

- E. ***All you who labor and are heavy laden:*** Heavy laden means loaded down with a heavy burden, or meaning to load something up, place a burden upon it, or weigh it down. There’s a helpful distinction between the two expressions, labor and heavy laden. “*Labor*” emphasizes the person’s exhausting effort... you have worked and struggled until you are weary. “*Heavy laden*” emphasizes the weight being carried, you have been loaded down with something too burdensome to bear. Later Matthew says concerning the scribes and Pharisees: “***For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.***”(Mt 23:24)
- F. ***Responding to Jesus’ invitation:*** We go to Him by turning our attention and trust towards Him. This is done by the *setting of the mind and the changing of the conversation*. We go to Him in prayer and worship. We take the truths of the word and talk to Him about those truths and ask Him to reveal more to our hearts. We go to Him and ask for wisdom and council regarding the entirety of our lives knowing He has insight to eagerly give those who ask.

III. TAKE MY YOKE

29 Take My yoke upon you... (Mt 11:29)

- A. A yoke is a wooden bar or frame placed over the necks of oxen or other work animals, usually joining two together so they can pull a load or plow under the direction of their master. A yoke speaks of being joined, guided, and put to work under someone's direction.
- B. His yoke is the means by which He brings us into greater agreement into His likeness. The yoke is His leadership, it is His way and values of the kingdom, it is *the sermon on the mount* lifestyle and it is the means by which we stay on the the path to becoming more like Him.

- C. We are to “put on this yoke” by willingly submitting our will and our ways to His leadership and His likeness. We take the yoke of Christ by asking for His help and grace in the transformation and training process.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and and light to my path. (Ps 119:105)

11 Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.
(Ps 86:11)

- D. The yoke of His leadership and likeness goes against our natural way and is counter to the path we would naturally choose to walk if we were left to our own vices. Right now we live in a society that is raging against the constraint of the yoke. They see it as bondage rather than the path to rest, peace, and joy.

1 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.” (Ps 2:1-3)

IV. LEARN FROM ME

...learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart... (Mt 11:29)

- A. There are two separate references where Jesus directly says to learn something. We are to echo the psalmist cry when he says in Psalm 86, “*teach me your ways..*” The Lord responds to our cry and in essence says, “I will teach you, will you learn? Pay careful close attention and learn this... *I am gentle and lowly in heart.* Go and reread the book of Hosea and learn what this means... *I desire mercy and not sacrifice.*” (Mt 9:13; Hosea 6:6)
- B. Jesus is the greatest teacher. When it comes to learning from Him we want to be students of the emotions of God. Both in the word and in prayer we want to pursue understanding regarding what He feels and what He thinks regarding all things.

V. REST FOR YOUR SOUL

...you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Mt 11:29-30)

- A. *You will find rest for your souls:* There is great rest and peace as we step into agreement with who is He and embrace His ways. Much of our unrest is found in our wrestling against His ways.
- B. *My yoke is easy and My burden is light:* In contrast to the Pharisees who put heavy burdens on people Jesus says there is an ease and a lightness that comes with my yoke. His ways do not weigh down the human heart but rather bring freedom and liberty.