

GIVE THANKS #2

Matthew 11:25-30

11/14/2021
Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE – NOT NAGGING OR MORE GUILT AT WHAT NOT DOING

SLIDE 2 – GIVE THANKS – CHOICES vs. FEELINGS

- Cultivating thanks giving/being thankful comes from a place of faith
- Trust in God's work – not my feelings, but on God's truth
- Taking a look at our lives, w/the Holy Spirit (search me Father) invite HS to color our lives w/His character, values, practices, etc...
- **BACKGROUND:** Jesus' rebuking the people/towns He traveled through
 - Unbelief, lack of faith/repentance, disobedience, complaining/criticism
 - Bethsaida, Chorazin, etc... won't come to Christ on HIS terms

SLIDES 3-5 – MATTHEW 11:25-30

SLIDE 6 – GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

- God's ways are counter-intuitive & 'seemingly' contradictory to world's ways
 - Beatitudes – "Blessed are the..."
 - God's ways – bless those who curse; give tithes; love enemies; etc...
- Vv25-27 – **Glory & praise to God** – 'hidden wisdom' from wise/learned, 'revealed wisdom' to the little children (little esteemed, simple, faith-filled)
 - Can't gain spiritual insights through natural/earthly means – come to Me
 - Only HS gives godly insights – not acc. to intelligence or most gifted
 - Work of HS to reveal truth, righteousness, justice, sin
 - We come to know Christ b/c of HS drawing us to & revealing Him

SLIDE 7 – COME TO ME – WEARY & BURDENED

- **John 14:6** – Way, Truth, Life – no other way except through Christ
- Jesus' invitation to ALL who are weary & burdened
 - WEARY – worn out w/exhaustion from labors (in the grind)
 - BURDENED – loaded down, esp. w/heavy directions from others
 - "unwanted rites/precepts" – religion from self/others

SLIDE 8 – COME TO ME – I WILL GIVE YOU REST

- Invitation to ALL who are WEARY & BURDENED
- Look to Christ as the Source for what we need – rest for our souls
- Promises of God, in Christ – in Him we will receive our rest (salvation etc.)
- REST – to refresh, 'give rest to self', calm, quiet/permitted to cease labors
 - Instead of looking elsewhere for rest (alternatives: numb, withdraw, etc)

SLIDE 9 – TAKE MY YOKE – LEARN FROM ME

- We are ALWAYS functioning under *someone's* yoke – philosophy/way of life
- Jesus: COME to Me, TAKE My yoke, LEARN from Me
 - YOKE – put on My teachings; laws/commands to be obeyed/submit to

- LEARN – increase what you KNOW & DO – by USE & PRACTICE
 - b/c I Am gentle & humble/lowly, not proud = trustworthy
 - You WILL FIND REST for your souls; in Christ's yoke → REST
- EASY – it fits; useful; mild/pleasant
- LIGHT – Light in weight; easily carried/put into practice
- Jesus' process – Come to Me, TAKE My yoke & LEARN, & you will find REST
 - Gotta look for it – hidden treasure
- WHAT's the link/connection between Jesus' rest & thankfulness?

SLIDE 10 – BE AT REST & BE THANKFUL

- When I'm overloaded/overwhelmed – my perspective & choices aren't best
 - Attempt to alleviate the pressure/pain/etc – Quick fix, bail, cut off
 - (vs. engage w/Christ, in Christ's way)
 - Prioritize & prefer – Jesus' ways vs. my ways
- Perspective: more headspace = more able to see Goodness of God at work

SLIDE 11 – LIVE WELL – WITH INTENT & PURPOSE *GIVE THANKS

- Jesus' rest → withdrawal vs. community; isolation & company
 - Life/life choices submitted to Christ → bring glory to Christ
 - Learning to live with intent & purpose vs. just dropping the obvious
 - Keeping in mind – I'm a significant part of the body of Christ
- Rest → gives us regular opportunities to re-evaluate & re-visit
 - Life, priorities, time investments, how am I doing? Experiencing life?

SLIDE 12 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

SLIDE 13 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace." So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."*

SLIDE 14 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE