

FTL Lesson 4: Considering the Character of Our Savior

Checkpoints 3 and 4

Two Introductory Scriptures:

- **Romans 8:35-39** "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord..."
- **Matthew 11:28-30** "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light..."

The focus of these two scriptures:

- **God's immense love: Romans 8:35-39**
- **God's willingness to rescue and reshape broken people: Mathew 11:28-30**

Some great statements from checkpoints 3 and 4:

- "Did you know that even though you have failed God many times, Jesus is not avoiding you?"
- "It is important to know how much Jesus loves you. You will not look to Jesus as your only Savior if you think He is mad at you and doesn't care about you..."
- "He is willing to rescue any sinner who comes to Him for forgiveness of sins, and for an entire makeover of his life! This is truly good news for all of us. All of us need a makeover. We all need a rescuer, a Savior. Jesus is a willing Savior because He is a loving Savior, and He loves us..."
- "I want you to join with me and let me decide what direction we will go as you learn what you need to know to have peace and rest in your life while we get the work done for My Father..."

Exposition of Romans 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor

powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord..."

- **He starts with a question: 8:35** "Who shall separate us..."
- **Why are the things mentioned after the initial question so significant?**
 - They are all things that happen when people persecute other people.
- **What is significant about his reference to Psalm 44?**
 - The Jewish people were conflicted because their enemies had persecuted them severely.
- **What truth does Paul affirm to comfort the Christian in the intense challenges we face in this world?**
 - We are more than conquerors
 - Through Him that loved us.
- **What is Paul's application that flows from this fact about God's love for us?**
 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **How does this series of truths affect us in the discussion we are having?**

Exposition of Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light..."

- **How is this text framed?**
 - It is an invitation.
- **Who is the object of Christ's invitation?**
 - Those who labor.
 - Those who are weary.
- **What does He invite us to do?**
 - Take His yolk.
 - Learn of Him.
- **What will be the ultimate result of responding to Christ's invitation?**
 - We will learn from Him.
 - We will discover He is gentle and humble.
 - We will find rest in our inner man.
 - We will discover the goodness of His way.
 - We will discover the goodness of the enabling He gives us.

Application thoughts:

- God loves us with a steadfastness that is rooted in the unconditional nature of that love.
- This love is a rock that we must stand upon when life becomes difficult.
- The kinds of difficulties we encounter are numerous, but the solution is the same.
- In Him we will triumph, no exceptions.
- He invites us to Himself as we take this journey called the Christian life.
- In this invitation is the understanding that He will expect us to exert energy.
- He will chart the course, not us.
- He will carry the weight to the extent it is needed at all times.
- We will learn from Him and about Him in this journey.
- We will discover He is gentle and humble.
- No matter the external noise, we can experience inner peace.

Memory Verses from these sections:

- **Memory Verse 1: John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life..."
- **Memory Verse 2: Romans 8:31b-32** "If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"
- **Memory Verse 3: Matthew 11:28-30** "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light..."