

COME TO JESUS | Matt 11:25-30 | Pastor Mark Bofill | 02/26/2023

I. For Revelation (25-27) | II. For Rest (28) | III. For Reformation (29-30)

INTRO: *A man who had been drinking for years, wanted to be saved. But he feared and feared. "How can I ever get rid of this enslaving habit?" He had made so many vows and broken every one! When he had promised his wife to quit, he never had the willpower to do it. So when in deep distress of soul, he knelt down to pray and call on God, he said, "O God, I don't promise you anything! I promised my wife I would quit drinking and I could not do it. I don't know whether I can quit even now. I don't promise you anything God, but my friend keeps telling me that YOU can give people a new heart. If you have a new heart for me, I sure do need one!"*

- **Can you identify with this man?** Maybe it's not alcohol, but a struggle with some other issue of the heart. **Let's face it, we all have issues!** – Ironically, so many people tend to stumble through life on their own **with no clear purpose.** Looking for fulfillment, they turn to relationships, substances or experiences which only provide temporary pleasure, but never fully satisfy. It's like grasping for the wind! **Is this the only thing that life offers?**
- Whether or not you are a Christian, TODAY I would like to share God's sovereign plan for your life...a Divine Remedy for the weary of soul. Title: **COME TO JESUS (Matt 11:25-30)**

Come to Jesus...

I. FOR REVELATION (25-27) – Before I expound on these verses, I want to provide you with a bit of context. **Matthew 11** is a pivotal point in Jesus' ministry. Up to this point **Jesus' message** was for all Israel to, "**Repent for the kingdom heaven was at hand!**" (Matt 3:2; 4:17) In (v.12-24) Jesus was convinced that the entire nation of Israel had rejected Him as Messiah, as well as his forerunner John the Baptist: (Matt 11:18-19) **For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'**¹⁹ **The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. But wisdom is justified by her children.** (i.e., Wisdom is revealed by the fruit produced - Their Rejection lead to consequence!)

- In (v.20-24), Jesus then began to **REBUKE the cities** in which most of His mighty worked were accomplished...WHY? **Because they DID NOT repent...They DID NOT Come to Jesus!**
- Though this is **grievous**, Jesus looked to His Father (v.25) and thanked Him for His **wisdom** and His **sovereign plan.** Jesus 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. (Matt 11:25)**

A. God knew that many would REJECT His Revelation. – In this case, the **Wise** and **Prudent**, because they pride themselves in religious knowledge and prominence amongst man.

- In **Matt 23**, Jesus refers to the Scribe & Pharisees of His day as: **Fools & Blind, Blind Guides**, and **Blind Pharisees**, of which **He pronounces Woe's upon!** (Woe's which still apply today for religious people who are in the dark about gospel mysteries – BLIND!)

B. God knew that many would Come to Jesus as Dependent Children. These are ones who are able to receive God's divine revelation, because they come with **child-like faith!** – Jesus said, *“Let the little **children** come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the **kingdom of heaven.**” (Matt 19:4)*

1. The heart of the Father and Son is to bring salvation to whosoever!

2. If you want to come to Christ, know that God put that desire in your heart. If you feel guilt over your sins, God put that consciousness of your need and your guilt in your heart to bring you to Jesus, and **if you will come, you will not be rejected!**

When you come to Jesus...

C. God Reveals Right Relationships (27) – This verse reveals much to us about the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. *“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

- There are no secrets between the Father and the Son.
- There is no one who knows the Son as well as the Father does. (*vis a vis*)
- God the Son knows God the Father, because **they are equal in nature**, completely compatible with one another.
- The Son chooses to reveal the Father to some. (*even though the Godhead desires all to be saved!*)

Jesus prayed that we would come to Him and **be one with the Godhead:** (John 17:20-21)

*“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.**” (John 17:21)*

CLOSING POINT: Childlike faith allows us to see who God is and what He desires of us...

Relationship! – P/A: **Have you come to Jesus with simple child-like faith for salvation?** Do you understand His desire to be one with you? If not, then maybe you are considered **wise and prudent** according to the standards of this world. (2 Cor 4:3-4) *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

Come to Jesus...

II. FOR REST (28) – **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you Rest.”** – Dr. Henry Halley declared that the words **Come Unto Me**, are *“The dearest, sweetest words ever hear by mortal ears.”* Think about it... Jesus does not bid us to come unto Moses, or Elijah, or some other, but **he tells us to come to himself!** He calls us to give us **True Rest**, and **Peace** both inside and out. **My peace I give unto you, not as the world...** (John 14:27)

A. Primary Invitation: Is for those who are tired of striving to be righteous *by their own good works*, so as to earn their entrance into heaven by keeping the law.

1. Jesus knew that the Jews struggled with religious expectations and legalities to keep the law, which was both **laborious** and **burdensome!** (*Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)*).

- Regarding this burden, **C.H. Spurgeon** declared: *"The law was a dispensation of terror, which drove men before it as with a scourge; [but] the gospel with bands of love."*

2. The writer of Hebrews expounded on this truth (**Heb 4:9-11**): *There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. 11 Let US therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience; (i.e. disobedient Israel) – People who try to live by the law will be **judged by the law!** – People who try to work for salvation will **never attain it!** (*They just grow tired and weary*)*

B. Subjective Invitation: This application speaks volumes to the **Weak** and the **Weary** of **ALL SORTS**. – You began life like one of the Seven Dwarfs (*cheerfully whistling*), but somehow you have become battered and bruised, beaten and broken; (*But you just can't do it anymore!*)

1. What does Jesus say to you? **Come Unto Me, ALL you who LABOR!**

- It's like Haggai's message to Israel when they were NOT right with God... *they worked at building it their way!* – *"You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes."* (**Haggai 1:7**)
- Perhaps it's like the woman with the issue of blood, who spent all her money on doctors to heal her. For 12 years she carried her burden, **until she came to Jesus!**

2. What is a BURDEN? (1) A load of any kind (Ex 23:5); (2) A severe task (Ex 2:11); (3) A difficult duty, requiring effort (Ex 18:22); (4) A prophecy of a calamitous or disastrous nature (Isa 13:1; 17:1; Hab 1:1, etc.) – In his commentary **Carson** said that **LABOR** implies the burdens we take upon ourselves and **HEAVY LADEN** implies the burdens others put upon us.

- The late **Chuck Smith** concluded that there are *"Only two burdens in life...GOD or SELF. You are living a 'God-centered life' or a 'Self-centered life.'* – *If you are living a Self-centered life, YOUR BURDEN IS HEAVY!"* (*Jesus wants to take that from you...come to Him and lay it down before Him!*)

P/A: What is your soul craving? REST...or RESTLESSNESS? In this context, **restlessness is godlessness**. If you knew God, your restlessness would cease. Jesus says, **"Come unto Me"** get the center of your life right. **Abide in Jesus so you can experience His True Rest today!**

III. FOR REFORMATION (29-30) – *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.* – If you have yet to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, then you CANNOT apply this appeal to your life. These verses are a radical call for submission and discipleship!

A. Jesus Says, “Take My Yoke” A “Yoke” {PP Pic} is a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to the plow or cart that they are to pull in a field. As a verb, “yoke” means to join or to unite. **Figuratively**, it can mean something more severe: to subjugate, or force into labor or bondage, as with a beast of burden, or a slave.

- **Before coming to Christ**, we were all burdened to keep the Law. But when we Come to Jesus, the **yoke of bondage is lifted** and we can walk in the liberty that He brings.
- Paul told the Church in (Gal 5:1), *Stand fast therefore, in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

B. Jesus Says, “Learn His Ways” – When training a new animal (*such as an ox*) to plow, ancient farmers often yoked it **to an older, stronger, more experienced** animal who bore the burden and guided the young animal through the learning process. **This a perfect depiction of DISCIPLESHIP!** (*Yet so many Professed Christians fail to learn of Him! – Expound: They never read their Bible, they seldom Pray, and they may attend church occasionally...those are just the basics! “Serving the Lord takes too much of MY time.” telling others about Jesus...well, that’s for pastors!*)

- When we come to Jesus, we must be willing to learn of Him & be guided by His yoke!
- *Jesus’ yoke is **not a call to a lazy or indulgent life**. There is still a yoke to bear and burden to carry. Yet, **with and in Jesus, they are Easy and Light**, b/c He bears it with us.*
- **What are you yoked to?** If your yoke is hard and your burden is heavy, then we can say that it isn't His yoke or burden, and you aren't letting Him bear it with you.

C-POINT: Life itself can be unbearable at times. But when you come to Him for reformation you enter into a “Disciple-Relationship!” (*He will bear it with you and teach you great & mighty things*)

Call for WORSHIP TEAM

ALTAR RESPONSE: Perhaps you have wandered from God’s Sovereign Plan for your Life? **Jesus invites you to Come to Him right now**. If you have never asked **Jesus Christ to save you from you sins**, then **NOW is the time to do it**. *Behold, today is the day of Salvation.* Jesus said, **“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. (John 6:37)”**

If you are a Weary and Burdened believer...then this Response Time is for you to **LAY YOUR BUREN DOWN...confess it to the Lord right now...Let’s Pray!**