



Miracle of Miracles: He Restores (*My Soul*)

Psalm 23:1-3, Matthew 11:28-30, Isa. 9:6

There is compelling parallel found in the first 3 verses of Psalm 23 (King David) and the final 3 verses of Matthew 11 (Jesus, the Son of David). This weekend, we're beginning our Christmas series and in this first message, I want to marry the restoration promise of the Old Testament with the finished work of Jesus in the New Testament.

Three miracles that we receive in Jesus Christ.

#1) The miracle of INVITATION: Enter into Jesus' rest

- REST is not something that fits well into society...
 - We stay up too late and rise too early...
 - We fuel ourselves through the day a double-shot of coffee and a warm donut that we ordered from our mobile app while driving to the coffee shop...
 - We're bombarded by information all day while working...
 - We finally sit down after a long day on our feet only to be reminded of the mental lists of errands not yet done and bills not yet paid and e-mails not yet replied to...

3 consequences of exhaustion!

- 1) Our thinking and decision-making ability deteriorates!
- 2) We become numb to our pain and problems!
- 3) Our emotions are raw and irrationally take over our minds!

Q: Are you struggling with any of these exhaustion signs?

- Five words of invitation: Take. My. Yoke. Upon. You!
 - A yoke is a wooden beam normally used between a pair of oxen or other animals to enable them to pull together on a load when working in pairs, as oxen usually do.
 - Go at Jesus' pace...

#2) The miracle of RELATIONSHIP: Enter into Jesus' heart.

- We all long for another way to live, don't we!
 - We all want to be in rich relationship!
 - Jesus invites us into relationship with Him!

Isaiah 9:6

6 For to us a child is born... The government shall be upon his shoulders...

In Christ, we receive the miracle of:

#3) The miracle of RESTORATION: Enter into Jesus' promise.

- Even though we cannot see it at work, our SOUL is what is running our lives!
 - *It's the most important part of us because; the soul is what processes all that happens in our lives and chooses how we respond to it!*
- Contrary to what you might believe, your schedule and to-do list is not what's driving the pace of your life!
 - The condition of your soul is what is directing the pace of your life!

The soul shapes our identity! It determines our "perceived" significance!

- If our soul is healthy and rested, no situation or circumstance can destroy our life.
 - Whereas, if our souls are unhealthy, no relationship, circumstance or resource can redeem our lives!

What is the condition of your soul?

- 1) Do things seem to bother you more than they should or used to?
- 2) It is hard to make your mind up about simple decisions?
- 3) Are your impulses to eat or drink too much, harder to resist than they used to be?
- 4) Do you have less desire than normal to visit with people or pickup the phone and return that voice message?
- 5) Do you have less courage than you used to?

Matthew 11:30

30 For my yoke is EASY, and my burden is light.

Take the SOUL challenge!

- Choose to live with expectancy and not entitlement.
- Speak first compliments and not complaints.
- Live with a new margin and remove the hurry from your life.