

Study Guide

Whose Invited?

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley

Primary Text

Matthew 11:28–30

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Main Theme

The invitation of Jesus is not extended to those who trust in their own righteousness or believe they have no need of Him. It is an invitation to the humble, the weary, the burdened, and those who recognize their need for God's grace. Christ calls us to come to Him, surrender to His lordship, and find true rest for our souls.

Key Truths

1. Not Everyone Accepts the Invitation

Scripture

- Matthew 11:20–24
- Matthew 11:25–27

Jesus condemned cities that had witnessed His miracles but refused to repent. Pride, self-righteousness, and an unwillingness to change can harden the heart against God.

Reflection:

- What keeps people from recognizing their need for Christ?
 - How can pride become a spiritual blind spot?
-

2. Jesus Invites the Weary and Burdened

Scripture

- Matthew 11:28
- Psalm 34:18
- Isaiah 57:15

The invitation is for those who are:

- Worn out from trying to save themselves.
- Burdened by guilt and sin.
- Overwhelmed by life's struggles.
- Tired of carrying their pain alone.

God often uses our desperation to bring us to Himself.

Reflection:

- What burdens are you carrying today?
 - Have you truly brought those burdens to Christ?
-

3. The Call to Come and Learn

Scripture

- Matthew 11:29
- John 8:31–32

Jesus does not simply offer relief; He offers relationship.

To:

- Come to Him.
- Learn from Him.
- Walk with Him.
- Submit to His lordship.

Taking His yoke means trusting Him enough to follow Him.

Reflection:

- What does it mean to "learn from Christ" in your daily life?
 - How does the church help believers grow as disciples?
-

4. The Rest That Jesus Gives

Scripture

- John 14:27
- Hebrews 4:9–11

The world's peace depends on favorable circumstances.

God's peace comes from:

- Peace with God.
- The presence of God.
- The promises of God.
- The hope of eternal rest.

Even when life's burdens remain, we never carry them alone.

Reflection:

- How is God's peace different from the peace the world offers?
 - When have you experienced God's presence during difficult times?
-

5. The Invitation Is Still Going Out

Scripture

- Luke 14:23–24
- Matthew 12:20

God's desire is to fill His house.

The invitation is for anyone who realizes they need Him. Jesus receives the broken, the bruised, and the struggling.

"A battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out."

Our weakness is not a barrier to Christ—it is often the very place where His grace meets us.

Additional Scriptures for Study

- Isaiah 55:1–3
- Psalm 51:17
- Romans 5:1
- Philippians 4:6–7

- 1 Peter 5:7
 - Revelation 22:17
-

Questions for Personal or Group Discussion

1. Why do you think Jesus emphasized humility over religious achievement?
 2. What burdens do people commonly carry that only Christ can truly lift?
 3. What does taking Christ's yoke look like in practical everyday living?
 4. How have you experienced the peace of God during difficult seasons?
 5. Why is recognizing our need for God essential to receiving His invitation?
 6. Is there an area of your life where pride may be keeping you from deeper dependence on Christ?
-

Closing Challenge

Jesus asks a simple question through His invitation:

Do you know that you need Him?

His call is not to the self-sufficient, but to the weary.

Not to the perfect, but to the repentant.

Not to those who have it all together, but to those willing to come.

Are you tired and heavy laden? Jesus offers rest through surrender.