

Finding Rest

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley
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John was a prophet and a preacher. His message was one of repentance in preparation for the advent of the Jews' Messiah.

As the ministry of John gave way to the ministry of Jesus, the Kingdom of heaven began to forcefully invade the kingdom of darkness. This was evidenced by the works of Jesus.

Jesus declared the kingdom of heaven to be "At hand". However, it was met by violent opposition.

Despite all that Jesus had done in regard to His miracles, and the fulfillment of all the prophecies concerning the Messiah, He was still rejected, and the hearts of many were unrepentant.

He cried out to God saying,

Matthew 11:25-26 / ²⁵... "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight."

- God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (Peter & James)
- Not many wise, not many noble are called (Paul to the Corinthians)
- Self-sufficient and/or self-righteous

Knowledge of Christ is only given to those whom God wishes to give it to, and knowledge of God is given only to those whom the Son of God "wills" to give it to.

Matthew 11:27 / All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

An Exclusive Invitation.

Matthew 11:28-30 / ²⁸"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹"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. ³⁰"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden."

Life can leave you worn out and/or weary. Heavy ladened or heavy burdens.

- The weight of an overloaded schedule
- Too many obligations
- Cares and worries of life

Jesus offers rest to those who will stop looking inward and look upward.

His invitation is to take off the yoke of the world and to be fitted with His yoke. That is, His purpose for your life. His yoke is fitted for us personally.

"Learn from Me." (doing life God's way)

The yoke of Christ is discipleship. To learn from Him the will of God that He alone can reveal, and yield to Him your will in obedience.

We also must learn of Jesus. How can we have any true type of relationship with Him if we don't know Him? If we don't truly know Him, how can we ever entrust our life to Him? (Rom. 10:13-14)

“I am gentle and humble in heart.”

Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and in earth. He has announced woes to those who fail to come under His lordship – to the cities, to the individuals, who refuse to love Him more than all others and all things.

However, He is gentle and meek. (Isa 42.3 and Mt. 12.20)

Isaiah 42:3 / A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.

“You will find rest for your souls.”

- Jesus saves His people from their sins – from the power of sin’s control over them.
- Jesus delivers from the heavy burden of religious rituals, traditions, and our own righteousness
- He delivers us from the burden of sin’s guilt and shame.
 - Without Him we stand guilty and condemned to die.

Whose yoke are you under?

Come to Christ. Humble yourself; yield yourself.

Take His yoke upon you. Learn from Him and of Him. Yield to Him the Lordship over your life.

“His yoke is easy (by way of comparison), and His burden is light.”

Actions:

1 Peter 5:6–7 / ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Romans 10:9–10 / ⁹that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Hebrews 4:10–11 / ¹⁰For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. ¹¹Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.