

ENCOUNTERS *with* JESUS

The Invitational Christ



Rev. Eric Smith
Matthew 11:28-30 NLT
July 24, 2022

Sermon Summary

The Gospels contain descriptions of personal encounters people had with Jesus as the Christ. No, “Christ” is not Jesus’ last name, it is, however, a title which means “messiah” or “anointed one.” The Jewish people of the Ancient Near East were looking for the Messiah. Many claimed to be the Messiah, but were put to death never to be heard from again. One, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, was put to death and rose three days later. You may ask, “Did he really rise from the dead?” This first question gives way to additional questions, “Is the scriptural record reliable? Can we encounter Jesus today?” Through the Encounters with Jesus series, we have explored these questions and more.. Encounters with Jesus: The Invitational Christ is the final installment of the series. The humble and gentle Christ extends the BEST invitation ever, “Come to me all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens.”

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 NLT

Diving Into The Message

Jesus is doing all of the talking here.

The Invitation of Christ

“Come to me . . .”

“Take my yoke.”

“Let me teach you . . .”

Jesus

The Condition of the ones INVITED to Christ.

“You who are weary and carry heavy burdens, . . .”

Jesus

The Description of Christ.

“I am humble and gentle at heart, . . .”

Jesus

The Promise of Christ.

“I will give you rest.”

“You will find rest for your souls.”

Jesus

Discussion Questions:

Who was Jesus directing his invitation to in v. 28, “Come to me?”

Jesus spoke about the “burden” of religious demands in **Matthew 23**: “The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees . . . crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.” **Matt 23:2&4 NLT**

How can “religious demands” be crushing?

Does Christianity have religious demands? If so, what are they?

How have you experienced the burden of religious demands?

Besides religious demands, what causes weariness in your life. What are some contemporary “heavy burdens?”

Jesus promised “rest for our souls.” He promises an inward sense of peace and wellbeing. He is the source of the rest. Describe how you have experienced rest for your soul. If you are in need of the rest Christ offers, spend time talking to Him about your need.

Jesus describes Himself in this passage of scripture as “humble and gentle” of heart. The idea being conveyed is that Jesus is meek, gentle, kind, forgiving, mild, benevolent, and humane. Are these words you use to describe your Jesus? Explain.