

Jesus Said ...

**“Come unto me,
all ye that labour ...”**

Matthew 11:28

Many people have brought a multitude of troubles on themselves. They waste much time and energy trying to find something in the place of faithful obedience to God and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Some well-meaning persons may be trying to please God by living a good moral life, others may seek it in the membership of a certain church, a high degree in education or some other social experience.

Jesus calls out His invitation down through the ages to all people, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

This precious, well-known scripture may be divided into four areas: 1. The invitation, 2. The easy yoke of service brings rest, 3. Learning of Jesus, 4. The Eternal rest.

First, the invitation—“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Because of who He is, Jesus the eternal

God, our Saviour and Redeemer, He alone can offer this invitation. For anyone else to make such a statement would surely be absurd and hollow. Jesus alone knows every need of every person and He has the power to offer any needed solution. In Matthew 11:27 Jesus said, "All things are delivered unto me of my Father." He also said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

When Jesus speaks of heavy-laden people, He is referring to those burdened down with sin and the cares of this life. This same expression is used by the prophet Isaiah and the psalmist David in the Old Testament part of God's Word. "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:4). "For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me" (Psalm 38:4). Everyone in the world needs the rest Jesus freely offers. The Bible has many scriptures showing mankind's need for a Saviour. Several of these are: Romans 3:23; Isaiah 57:20, 21; Ecclesiastes 7:20. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (For further study, read Romans 3:10-18.)

When Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," He is speaking of salvation for the sinner who answers His call. He offers rest to the guilty conscience of those who acknowledge and repent of all their sins. By accepting this forgiveness that Jesus offers, you can be delivered from the unrest of your own selfish will, and your uncertainty over where you belong in God's plan for your life.

When we experience the rest Jesus gives, we can rest in His care as a child asleep in its mother's arms. This is possible only because Jesus removes our tension and anxiety and gives us His peace. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:3, 4).

Jesus gives security when ye yield our lives to Him. He said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). This rest of your spirit is a direct preparation for bearing the yoke of Christian service that Jesus gives to those who follow Him.

The *second* part of Jesus' call, "Take my yoke upon you," is addressed to all who have come to Him, feeling their weakness and need and have confessed their sins and found Jesus as their personal Saviour. This personal call bids you to live in deep submission of your will to His will and in joyful obedience, in the service of your new Master.

After the Apostle Paul's conversion, He asked Jesus, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6). Jesus, in speaking to someone about Paul, said, "He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: for I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake" (Acts 9:15, 16). As a farmer of Jesus' day used a yoke of the right size to make it easier for the animal to pull the load; Jesus has a special yoke of service for all who follow Him.

There is much work to be done for Jesus and He has given many directives for His people to follow. A few of these are: give your life for His sake, Matthew 16:25; love your neighbor as yourself, Matthew 19:19; watch and pray, Matthew 26:41; forgive others, Mark 11:26; "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not

be able" (Luke 13:24); read your Bible, John 5:39; keep His commandments, John 14:15; witness to others about Jesus, Matthew 28:19. We learn to know Jesus best when we are yoked with Him in Christian service.

Our *third* area of Jesus' words is, "Learn of Me." In saying this He did not mean a casual knowledge of Himself, but an "all out" commitment to Him. In another place He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:24, 25).

The Apostle Paul worked hard to learn more about Jesus. In Philippians 3:7-11 he says, "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them as [refuse], that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

We see in these verses that we, like Paul, must give our entire being to Jesus for His use in His godly plan for us. It is through this commitment that we really, "learn of Him." The reason many Christians make no progress in grace and victory is because they are ashamed of Jesus. Then, because they are not walking close with Him, He cannot teach them His way. We enter Jesus' school when we take up His yoke.

What a wonderful blessing it is to be at rest while bearing Jesus' yoke of service. The reason we are happy while in His yoke is that we sense

His presence with us through the work of the Holy Spirit within. As we continue to work for Jesus, the yoke becomes easier and the burden grows lighter. Remember, the road of Christian service is the only road to heaven.

When we yield ourselves to Jesus and live a life of faithful service in His yoke, all the while learning of Him, He gives the greatest possible reward, eternal rest for our souls, which is our fourth area of discussion. The Golden Text of the Bible clearly states this, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The writer of the Book of Hebrews speaks of the great eternal rest that comes as a result of faithfulness. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" (Hebrews 4:9,11).

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden." This invitation is open to everyone, but no invitation has value to you unless you respond to it.

If the wear and tear of daily living tends to get you down and everybody seems to get on your nerves and you don't know what to do, Jesus' invitation is, come as you are. If you are frustrated and have no hope and feel your life is a failure, come to Jesus now.

In every way possible Jesus has called weary sinners to partake of His salvation and enjoy the assurance of being clear before Him. Yet so many poor, sin-bound people go their way in dark despair. The Holy Spirit calls in the depth of every heart, "Come." Also every Christian is authorized to say, "Come to Jesus." "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

You *are* invited, come as you are. By delaying you will only sink deeper into the muck of sin

and shame. Someone has said, "God has promised forgiveness for your repentance; but He has not promised you tomorrow."

Come now to Jesus, repent of your sins and believe that He will save you. Accept this invitation to come to His storehouse of precious promises. "According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (II Peter 1:3,4). Your guilt will be removed, you will have total peace in your heart and eternal life will move through your soul. Come, just as you are, and come now.

—Raymond P. Brunk

If you have any questions, or if you need further help, feel free to contact the person whose name appears below.

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