

*“Credo, Domine; adjuva incredulitatem meam,”* Mark 9:24.

*“Domine, volumus Jesum videre,”* John 12:21.

### MATTHEW 11

*<sup>25</sup>At that time, Jesus continued, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup>Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you.*

*<sup>27</sup>Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.*

*<sup>28</sup>“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*



Are you tired today? It's a foregone conclusion that when you become an adult, you're always exhausted. One-third (1/3) of Americans get 6 or fewer hours on an average night of sleep. The CDC recommends 7 if not 8 full hours per night.

Yet it seems that we are pulled in all different directions every day: obligations with children, grandchildren, work, with church, hobbies, whatever. It seems we have less and less time. The man who invented the microwave envisioned that less time cooking meals would mean more time spent with family. (Or not.)

Americans are busy. Children are into everything, swim team, basketball, soccer, dance, and the list goes on and on. I've heard people say that once they've retired they're busier than during their career. I've heard people say when coming back from vacation that they need a vacation from their vacation. Add to that, just the stressors of life: job, finances, family life, how about the election? National politics? Drama? The drama in our personal life? Life never stops. Now more than ever, that saying feels true: There is no rest for the weary.

Jesus disagrees. There is a rest from the weary. There is a peace that transcends understanding. There is a refuge from the storm. There is a relief for burdened and weary people. Jesus invites us to come and learn this rest. He

invites us with outstretched arms, to all who are weary and burdened and He assures us of rest for the weary.

## JESUS GIVES REST

This rest is more than a physical rest. It's more than quarantine from a flurry of activities. It's more than a full 8 hours of sleep. It is a spiritual rest that Jesus is talking about. Jesus offers a rest for burdens. It's a rest from the burdens of a guilty conscience, burdens that weigh on our heart, the burden of sin. It's the burden of knowing that every single day we prove we don't deserve to stand in the presence of a holy God. We deserve to be thrown out of His presence forever.

Just look at how Jesus divides people up with these words! He says, "*Come to me all.*" He does not expect a certain skin color, social class, age level, or skillset. He does not expect a scholarly degree. He does not expect prerequisite courses. He does not expect a peer review. He involves no mysterious theological complexities. He says "*all who are weary and burdened.*" The only thing that may exclude you from this invitation is if you are getting on fine with life as-is. If you are never afraid of death. If you are never brought to your knees by sin. If you are never tormented by your conscience, then I suppose you may have no need for these words and no need for Jesus. You may be the wise and learned that Jesus says is hidden from salvation.

But if you are looking for a shoulder, a release, a rest, a peace, then you've come to the right place. "To come to Christ is to believe that sins are remitted for Christ's sake" (Apology XII.V). The "labor" and "burden" signify the contrition, anxiety, and terrors of sin and death. We know this is what our sin does, that it separates us from God. Yet Jesus tenderly invites us to come to Him.

He soothes our hearts' aches and pains. He binds our wounds. He pays for our stay at the inn of His rest. He claims us with three words, "*It is finished.*" It's in Jesus and His blood alone that you and I find forgiveness and peace with God. Now Jesus says, "*Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*"

Ever look back on sins of your youth? Do you find yourself holding onto the thoughtless pranks and lies you once committed? Does it plague you like a bad penny? It is paid for. It is off your shoulders and onto His. Hold onto Jesus and never let go, and your past is perfect and pure.

Ever look ahead to what comes? Does fear grip your heart? Do the worries and cares of the world make you fear for the next generation ... and the next? Come to me. All you who worry. Do not take your eyes off that grand prize that is already yours. You are a citizen of heaven right now, and no debt collector, no sins of the past, no virus can take that away. You will rise

Ever feel bombarded by Satan's temptation? God is a loving God yet life is filled with misery and filled with pressure. *"Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* That's His promise. Satan has no power over you. You are God's own dear child. Jesus says, I have purchased you with my own blood. I have dipped you into my brotherhood with the waters of baptism and the Word of promise.

Has the hand of depression cast its dark shadow on you? Do you feel like you will never feel joy again? I've seen that. That's a real thing. *"Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* Jesus wants you to know that you are not lost in darkness forever. Nothing can separate you from the love Jesus has for you. Rest your soul in the shadow of the cross and you will never be put to shame.

Has the spouse you have shared your life with been taken from you in death? Everyone leaves the funeral and resumes life as normal, but it's not normal. That wound stabs at you every day. *"Come to me."* Jesus knows the pain that death imparts, but it has lost its sting forever, because Jesus won, once for all. You will be His people and He will be your God, and He will wipe every tear from your eye. The old order of things has passed away.

Trust Jesus when He says there is rest for the weary. His love and faithfulness will refresh you, won't it? He will give you the easy yoke of trust. How can Jesus do this, and make good on the promise?

Verse 27 tells us that everything has been entrusted to the Son from the Father. The “everything” are His divine properties, things committed to the Son by the Father.

Martin Luther made a general argument based on this passage, and his followers repeated him:

- a) God cannot ‘receive’ things
- b) God would not give all things to a mere man
- c) man cannot be over all things
- d) God cannot be under God

Therefore, true God and true man come together in this one person. It is ultimately the argument for the *majesty* of the person of Jesus Christ. According to Jesus Christ’s humanity, He has the same majesty as God. The divine is communicated to the human. “For to quicken, to have all judgment and all power on earth, to have all things in His hands, to have all things in subjection beneath His feet, to cleanse from sin, etc., are not created gifts, but divine infinite properties; and yet, according to the declaration of Scripture, these have been given and communicated to the man Christ.” See John 5:27, 6:39, 3:35 et al. (FC VIII.55)

“This power showed itself fully and demonstrably in and through the assumed nature after He had laid aside His infirmities, and thus the assumed nature was brought into a communion of full and manifest association with the divine power, just as heated iron through its union with the fire comes to share in and use the power of giving light and heat” (Martin Chemnitz’ Two Natures 317).

Here (in the invitation to come), Jesus offers to us the entire treasure which He has brought for us from heaven, and He invites us with the greatest kindness. And He is good for it! The promise is good! Whoever would be saved should not trouble or harrass himself with the unanswerables – unanswerable apart from Jesus Christ. Listen to Jesus Chrsit. Hear Christ as He invites. Come to Christ as the Book of Life. Rest in Him as He gives rest. Amen.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.