

Matthew 11:28-30 – The Heart of Christ: Salvation’s Yoke

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, April 28, 2024

Matt 11:28-30 – Jesus placing a capstone on the end of His great Galilean ministry. **He reveals His heart.**

Context: Two guardrails precede this great gospel invitation.

1. Humility (as a child) – **Matt 11:25-26**
2. Through Christ alone (no one knows Father except through Son) – **Matt 11:27**

Come to Jesus...

Matt 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labor & are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you & learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, & my burden is light.*

Who should come?

- Labor – actively working hard to crowbar your life into smoothness
This is legalism. Trying to take care of your problems yourself.
- Heavy Laden – passively finding yourself weighed down by something outside your control
This is the burden of sin and all its effects.

Reason 1: Rest!

- The invitation is to give you rest. **Both the legalistic and the lawless are craving the same thing... rest!**
- **What kind of rest does Jesus give?** He tells us. It is rest for your souls.
Whether you are trying to measure up (legalism, praying hard enough...) or just struggling under the mess... rest.

Reason 2: He is Meek & Lowly

Only here in Scripture does Jesus so plainly tell us His heart. Here is what He says: “I am meek and lowly in heart...”

- Meek – gentle, kind, compassionate
- Lowly – humble, approachable, accessible. He has the heart of a servant.

How is Jesus Meek & Lowly (Gentle & Approachable) in Heart?

1. In His delight in redemption.
2. In His whole-hearted ministry to the sinners and outcasts.
3. In His great patience with His people.

Come to Jesus’ Yoke

Yoke – an instrument intended to make it easier to carry a heavy load. **Symbolized submission to work.**

The selection of a yoke also tied you to a specific master and a specific load.

IMPORTANT: There is one call here, not two. It isn’t first a call to rest and then a call to a yoke.

- Some would focus on the period between **v28** & **v29** and separate the thoughts.
- We best interpret text by following the CONTEXT.

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The “rest for you soul” results from coming under Jesus’ yoke, BECAUSE it is easy and the burden light.

The rest is not a result of being “yokeless” but under a better yoke with a better Master.

Why is this important?

Some tried to separate salvation & submission (1980-90’s Free Grace vs. Lordship Salvation).

- Free Grace: “My Christ but not my Lord.”
- Lordship Salvation: “If He isn’t your Lord, He isn’t your Christ.”

This issue arose in part because of “conversions” that left no noticeable change, no desire to follow Christ.

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Consider the Great Commission...

Matt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and *teach all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: ... (KJV).

Teach, not preach. Why is that? This isn't about the form of evangelism but its result.

“teach” (V) – “*mathēteuō*” to make learners, to make disciples... then baptize.

“disciple” (N) - *mathētēs* – a learner / student

- Consider the order of operation here.
- Baptism does not make you a disciple. **Salvation makes you a disciple. Salvation comes with a yoke.**
- Baptism is an essential first step of obedience to that discipleship (submitting to the yoke) and pulling in obedience to your new Master. **Illus:** Grace’s testimony

Back to our text...

Matt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor & are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you & *learn of me*; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, & my burden is light.

Learn of me – “*manthanō*” to be taught

Do you see how this fits perfectly with the Great Commission in Matthew 28?

Come to Jesus’ Easy Yoke and Light Burden

If you are lost, you are already under a yoke, a slavery to sin.

Rom 6:16-18 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. (ESV)

1. You are a slave to something.

Many people don't perceive their own slavery. The Spirit illuminates your mind to see it through conviction.

2. Salvation sets you free from the yoke of sin and death and yokes you to Christ (righteousness).

This is the whole point of our message today.

3. Even Christians can put themselves back under the yoke of sin.

Christian, are you experiencing the promised “rest for your soul”?

The “rest” Christ promised is not from passivity, but through actively learning of Him and obeying Him.

Illus: Michael and CMH (Citizens Memorial Hospital)