

Tired!

June 26, 2023

MATTHEW 11:28-30 NKJV – (28) Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Jesus has made an extraordinary offer to all who hear Him. **He** makes an invitation: “If you're struggling and tired, I can give you relief.”

Here is the implication. Jesus' Jewish listeners were engaged in a mighty struggle to know God the Father. Their religious leaders had placed enormous burdens on them (**Matthew 23:4**), and they were laboring to carry those burdens in hopes of being approved by God. Jesus has just said that He can reveal His Father to anyone, and He immediately offers rest to everyone who is weighed down.

Jesus is not talking about physical rest, necessarily. The following verse will describe it as rest for the soul. The path to the Father through Jesus is not one of weary labor and heavy work. Jesus' earlier analogy about the path to life being narrow and "difficult" (**Matthew 7:14**) is entirely separate and speaking from a different perspective. From the view of the world, following Christ means taking on difficult circumstances and giving up worldly pleasures. From the view of eternity—of salvation—following Christ means giving up the impossible task of carrying our own sin.

Christ does not say it here, but the gospel will reveal that Jesus is offering to carry the burden and do the work in order to lead those who come to Him—those who are "yoked" to Him—to the Father (**Matthew 11:30; John 6:29**).

Our deepest need is to be loved and accepted without condition, but it can feel impossible to find. Fortunately, that kind of acceptance is found in Jesus alone.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: It is not enough to just be unified; we must be unified in Christ.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"