

What do the Lord Require? - Matthew 11:28-30
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Matthew 11:28-30 is Missy Raley's favorite passage. Missy serves as the Director of Genesis Kids. This is a beautiful passage straight from the lips of Jesus and is an invitation to all of us. The backdrop for this passage is an ongoing conversation, well, more of a dispute between Jesus and the religious leaders. In responding, Jesus addresses two groups. First, he is constantly defining His ministry over against the Jewish religious leaders, engaging in disputes with them about the Law, the Sabbath, and the plethora of rules they imposed on the people. The Pharisees invitation to the people was a call to take on themselves the yoke of the Law, binding themselves to the religious duties and rules as the pathway to be acceptable before God. Of course, this created a religious pecking order. Jesus, on the other hand, was the personification of God's grace, the embodiment of the love of God offered to all people. Grace is an incredibly messy thing, because if misunderstood, it can create a culture of spiritual freedom that will mix religious commitment to the sin in the culture. Yet, rightly understood and experienced, grace is the only way we can actually be saved and experience the life-change brought in the Gospel. It is this tension that creates the drama in between Jesus and the religious leaders, as they accuse Him of being a drunk, glutton, and soft on sin. Meanwhile, Jesus pronounces judgment on the whole system because they are actually in the midst of missing their Messiah. But Jesus also speaks to the whole Jewish culture offering an invitation to something true and better. While the rejection of Jesus puts people in line to experience His justice, those who see Him for who He is and believe will experience the beauty of His heart.

The invitation Jesus extends is, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden." The Jewish religious leaders called people to come to the Law, the keeping of a list of rules and observances. The truth is that every religion extends a similar invitation. Come to our church, or denomination, our world-view and we will teach you how to live in a way that is right so that you can be acceptable before God. But notice the invitation Jesus gives has nothing to do with a system, a list, a process. His invitation is simple, come to ME! Jesus always invites us to Himself, to come and see the glory of His person, experience the beauty of relationship and friendship with Jesus. It is an invitation to behold His beauty and experience His love. It is also an invitation to His purpose on display at the cross, and to experience true forgiveness because of His sacrifice. The invitation is to see Jesus for who He truly is, and to let what we behold change us.

This is the only passage in the passage where Jesus tells us what is in His own heart. I like to ask people (including my kids) to share what is going on in their heart, meaning, what is your true self, what is motivating you and moving you right now. When we ask Jesus this question his response is that He is "gentle and lowly in heart." Gentle and lowly, is this how you would describe the heart of Jesus. Simple put, this is Jesus telling us that He does not treat those who know Him harshly, He is loving and tender. But more important, Jesus is accessible. As God, He has come near, is present and open to us. In his book *Gentle and Lowly* (written from this passage), Dane Ortland says this, "The point in saying that Jesus is lowly is that he is accessible. For all his resplendent glory and dazzling holiness, his supreme uniqueness and otherness, no one in human history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ."

The greatest invitation ever given came from the lips, and it is for those whose lives are burdened, whose sin and guilt is overwhelming, and whose religious efforts have left them weighed down and stuck. "Come to me!", Jesus cries out to us. Only in Him can we find rest. It is an invitation to follow, to trust Jesus alone for redemption, but also with the

broken struggles of our lives. It is an invitation to bind ourselves to Jesus like a yoke links two oxen working a field. Get this, Jesus is asking you to hitch your wagon to Him with the promise that He will do the heavy lifting as you plow through the fields of your life. You will never go through it alone. And it is an invitation to learn from Jesus, to be disciplined in the Gospel. We are all following something. All of us have attached ourselves to something and are depending on that to get us through the storms. We are all being taught by someone, allowing our view of self and our worldview to be shaped by this. It might be Fox or CNN, some philosophy, or even just the traditions of your childhood. But something or someone has disciplined you. The invitation of Jesus is a call to Him, to trust yourself fully to Him and let Jesus' gentle and lowly heart shape you. This invitation still stands. Look to Jesus, the central figure of all history inviting you to Himself. Will you come?

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Genesis 42	Genesis 43	Genesis 44	Genesis 45	Genesis 46	Genesis 47	Genesis 48

Reading from this past week: Matthew 11:28-30

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Jeremiah 33:1-3

Family Worship

Song - *Mediator*

<https://youtu.be/GZ2SelqJnk0>

Gospel Project

Story: Paul's shipwreck

Story Point: Paul trusted God to rescue him.

Big Picture Question: What will happen to all Christians in the future?

Answer: One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

Scripture: Acts 27-28

New City Catechism

Question #28: What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?

Answer: They will be cast out from the presence of God, into hell, to be justly punished, forever.

Verse: John 3:16-18, 36

Scripture

Matthew 11:28-30

- What do you think Jesus meant when He offered the invitation, "Come to me!"?
- What is a yoke and why does Jesus give this as an illustration of what it means to come to Jesus?
- Jesus promises rest for those who labor and are heavily laden. What is this rest and how do we live in it?

Prayer

*Pray that you would see the beauty of Jesus who is gentle and lowly, and that you would continually come to Him in faith.

*Pray for the Send St. Louis, our City Strategist Rayden Hollis, and our effort to plant churches in the St. Louis metro area.