

Message Series: **The Invitation: what will you do with yours?**

Message Title: **Come to Jesus**

Scripture Source: **Matthew 11:28**

Date: Sunday, May 13, 2018

Teacher: John Garner

To the Weary and Burdened

Can you remember a time or times when these words described you? Maybe they apply to you today. Sometimes the weariness is an ache deep within that refuses to be wished, medicated or ignored away.

What is it that wearies you today? What burdens have you carried with into this place? A burden of regret? A burden of disappointment and frustration? Can you put a name to the burden?

God cares about your weariness and burdens. Psalm 38:9 *"All my longings lie open before you, O LORD; my sighing is not hidden from you."*

"The LORD is close the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18
Is there hope for the 'weary and burdened'? Maybe the music of the morning has stirred something within you...a flicker of hope is being rekindled. A way forward is being opened up.

Words for the Weary: Matthew 11:28-30

Take these words in, let them intersect with your life, even the shadow parts, especially the dark shadows of uncertainty and pain.

And they came from Jesus during a tumultuous time in his ministry life.

- Uncertainties swirling around John the Baptist, a devoted follower and servant of Jesus Vss.1-19
- Uncertainties and criticism leveled against Jesus: vss. 18-19
- Bold denunciations by Jesus against the hard hearted and unrepentant: vss. 20-24
- A Prayer by Jesus to the Father: vss. 25-27
- The Invitation: vss. 28-30

In the throes of everything that is going on around him and within him, Jesus is compassionately mindful of others...the weary and burdened.

The Invitation Explored: Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

At its core, the invitation is deeply personal and relational. "Come to me..." Jesus is saying, "I want to be in relationship with you. I take you where you are, and will lead you into a fuller, healthier life if you follow my heart and lead."

In Jesus day, the Jewish people were being 'burdened' with almost endless religious expectations, rules and regulations. Matthew 23:4. A relationship with God is being eclipsed by all sorts of rules and regulations, hundreds of them. No wonder they were emotionally and spiritually exhausted and overwhelmed. Jesus cuts through all of that chaos and confusion and invites people to connect with him.

Come to Jesus, with your Burdens: Matthew 11:28

What does it actually mean to come to Jesus? And how do I come to Jesus?

It means that I believe Jesus exists and is good. Hebrews 11:6

It means that I learn about Jesus in the Bible, especially the 4 Gospels.

Coming to Jesus involves a turn...from a self directed life to one directed by Jesus and his words.

Coming to Jesus involves prayer...talking with and listening to Jesus, by choices of faith in the supernatural reality of a living Saviour whose name is Jesus.

Coming to Jesus acknowledges that I am needy and that he is able to meet me in my neediness and provide what is needed to move forward.

Coming to Jesus involves asking questions, voicing doubts and seeking answers, along with a trusted friend along the way who helps me connect with Jesus.

Coming to Jesus is not a singular event; it is a way of thinking and living. We never outgrow our need to keep coming to Jesus...finding him in the Scriptures, in the circumstances of life, in the lives of others.

What Burdens Do You Need to Give to Jesus?

Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:6-7. What does it mean to 'cast your burdens' on God? It means that we name the burdens, one by one, and entrust them to Jesus, asking for help and guidance moving forward.

Philippians 4:6-7

Is it a spiritual/emotional burden...guilt, shame, regret, confusion?

Is it a relational burden?

A burden about finances or health?

A career or schooling burden?

Let's take a moment to write out...or pray to God about specific burdens.

Invitation's Offer: "I will give you rest."

A more accurate of the word 'rest' could be relief.

"Jesus does not promise his disciples a life of inactivity or repose, nor freedom from sorrow or struggle, but He does assure them, if they keep close to him, they will find relief from such crushing burdens as crippling anxiety, the sense of frustration and futility, and the misery of a sin-laden conscience."

(R.Tasker)

I would add, freedom and relief from the self-imposed burdens of perfectionism and externally imposed burdens of the expectations of others. We are called into an everyday relationship with Jesus, who is our singular leader in the journey of life. We can mature into the people God has created and designed us to be, with our unique stories, gifts, flaws and abilities. Compare Ephesians 2:10 and Galatians 5:1

The Invitation of Jesus...to you. What will you do with yours, today?