

Rest Only In Jesus

Matthew 11:27-30



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Matthew 11:27-30 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. {28} **Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** {29} **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.** {30} **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**^{KJV}

Benny was known by all his friends as a chronic worrier. He came into work one day whistling and happy. No matter what happened that day - good or bad - Benny smiled right through it. At the end of the day his best friend asked him why his life was suddenly so different. Benny said, "I used to worry about everything. Then it came to me - why not hire someone to worry for me? That's what I did. I put an advertisement in the local paper offering 500.00\$ a day to anyone who would worry for me. Believe it or not I had someone call and take the job. Now I don't worry - my worrier worries for me!" Benny's friend looked at him and said, "Well, that's fine. But 500.00\$ a day? You don't make that much money! How are you going to pay your "worrier". Benny replied, "That's not my worry".

When we look at our text today we're going to see that its central theme is "rest in Christ". I have preached this text to the lost, to those who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, and it certainly has application there. There are many of you in this place today that are trying to live

KJV King James Version of the Scripture is used throughout this sermon unless otherwise noted

your lives without Christ. You don't know where you're going when you die, and you don't know how to survive this life if you live. My prayer for the lost among us is that they hear these sweet words and this wonderful promise. He has said **"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"**. Ah, sweet rest! Rest from worry over eternity. Rest from the burden of your sins. Oh sinner, will you not come unto Him Who is able to save you to the uttermost? Will you not hear the call of God's Holy Spirit when He whispers "Come"? There is not a person in this place today who doesn't know that he or she is a sinner in need of a Savior. Salvation comes when you realize that ..

Psalms 38:3-4 There is no soundness in my flesh ... neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. {4} For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

Lost one, do not carry your sin on trembling knees and on bent back. The words of Christ are for you. He pleads, **"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest "**. Oh that you would come believing, for

Romans 10:11,13 ... Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ... {13} For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

But now I speak to the Christian, the one who professes to know Jesus Christ as Savior. Our present age has separated Christians into grades, like a farmer would separate eggs for the market. There is the "Nominal"

Christian, the "Social" Christian, the "Backslidden" Christian, and the "Emerging" Christian. Some Christians are so vague in their faith that they are like the little girl who was asked in Sunday School who Peter was. She spoke up, "I'm not sure, but I think he was a rabbit".

Dear friends, this should not be. The promise of Christ to give us rest was not just for the moment of salvation, but it was to continue on into our lives. Christ expected His followers to FOLLOW Him. This is the reason He says **"take My yoke upon you and learn of Me"**. Once saved Christ calls each of us to the deeper Christian walk.

While on vacation my wife and I did something we rarely do - we watched television. I did see something very interesting on one channel. It seems that shepherds often find abandoned and neglected lambs among their flocks. To feed them they often put the lambs on nursing goats. The goats - cousin to the lamb - feed the lambs until they get old enough to graze in the pasture. But here the really odd part. Some of these goat-nursed lambs grow up believing that they are goats and they will not stay among their own. I thought as I saw that, "How odd". Then it struck me - there are many Christians who follow the same pattern. Born again by faith in Christ they sometimes wander back to the world that first nourished them. Yet this is not what God would have of Christ's followers. We are to follow Him, to cling to Him, to do as He directs. When the saved of God do as their Father says:

Jeremiah 6:16 ...Stand ye in the ways, and see, and

ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. ...

We find rest. We who are saved should be the most rested and happy people on the face of this earth, for Christ has said **"I will give you rest"**. If we are not so then it is because we are following goats instead of the Shepherd.

1. Jesus Christ Is Our Mediator

At the beginning of this chapter of Matthew **John the Baptist**, discouraged and imprisoned by Herod, sends his disciples to Christ asking:

CONTEXT Matthew 11:3 ... **Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?**

What John was asking was **"are You really the Messiah? Are You, Jesus, God in the flesh, come to save Your people?"** Jesus sent back to John these words:

CONTEXT Matthew 11:5-6 **The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. {6} And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**

Christ's works show us Who He is. **The blind receive their sight**. Physically blind people - people who have never seen the light of day - now see and testify of Jesus. **"One thing I know: once I was blind but now I see"**

(John 9:25). Those who were bound by sin and by the evils of this world are given *spiritual sight*. **Matthew** leaves his tax tables and follows Jesus. **Peter, James, and John** leave their nets and become fishers of men. **Zacchaeus** stops robbing poor people and restores all that he has taken fourfold. **Nicodemus**, blinded by religion, comes to Jesus by night and has his eyes opened. **Lepers are cleansed**. Those who, because of disease, lose all that they have, now are given new life and hope. Those who are under the **leprosy of sin** are led to repentance, and are given new lives. **Mary Magdalene** now follows Christ, whereas before her life was unpleasing to God. An **unnamed adulteress** is told by Jesus to **"go and sin no more"**, and she surrenders to His Lordship. **The deaf hear, and the dead are raised up**. God in the flesh, Jesus Christ, stands before a tomb. He cries out **"Lazarus, come forth!" (John 11:43)** and he which could not hear heard, and he which could not feel felt. He which was dead is now alive because of Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He is

1 Timothy 6:15 ... the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords,^{HCSB}

Jesus Christ is very **God of very God**. He is the **blessed and only Sovereign**. He controls all things.

In the introduction of His great Promise He said **"all things are delivered unto Me of My Father"**

(Matthew 11:27). Within the Trinity of God the Father has decreed that **all things are in Christ's hands**. He Who is both God and Perfect Man is all things to us.

God the Father speaks to us through His Son

(Hebrews 1:2). He does not approach sinners directly, but Jesus Christ - **the Word made flesh** - is that One Mediator between God and Man. We are told:

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; {6} Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

As God, Jesus can speak to us for God. As Perfect Man, Jesus can represent us before the Heavenly Father. He alone is our Mediator, He alone is the Father's Mediator.

He is the Door to Heaven:

John 10:7-9 ... I am the door of the sheep. {8} All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. {9} I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jesus Christ is the Manna of God from Heaven. He is sent to feed the children of God, saying:

John 6:35 ... I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

As Jesus He is Perfect Man, as Christ He is Perfect God. He stands between us and God, like Moses, but

greater than Moses.

The children of Israel would not go to Mount Sinai because of its thundering and lightening, but Moses went. We who are mere mortals cannot approach the Mountain of God, but need an Advocate. We need Him to Whom the Father said:

Hebrews 1:8 ... Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.

Jesus Christ is the Mediator of this Covenant of Grace. The Father **delivered all things to His trust.**

As our focal text tells us:

FOCAL Matthew 11:27-28 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. {28} Come unto me ...

He is the Mediator. **God has commended all things into His hands.** The Son knows the Father, and the Son knows us. The Son must **reveal the Father** if we are to know Him. He is the **Mediator of the New Covenant.** He is the

Hebrews 9:15 ... Mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament,

they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

As God He represents God to us. As Man He - dying upon Calvary, rising from the tomb - represents us to God. He is ours because we repented and believed on Him.

2. Our Mediator Promises Us Rest

FOCAL Matthew 11:28 **Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

What does Jesus Christ promise His people? Certainly He offers us *eternal life*. Jesus said:

Mark 10:29-30 ... **Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, {30} But he shall receive... in the world to come eternal life.**

We have **in the world to come eternal life**. This is what our Mediator offers us. On the day that you turned from this life and turned to Christ He promised you **in the world to come eternal life**. That is fixed, and that is certain. Yet Jesus also offers us a **rest right now**. He said "**Come unto Me, ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I WILL give you REST**".

Jesus doesn't tell us *what* He will give us rest from. He doesn't say "I will give you rest from worry over money troubles" or "I will give you rest over sickness and death". No, His Promise is *purposely general*. Jesus said

that the Father has delivered all things - ALL THINGS - into His hands.

What can Christ give you rest from? *ANYTHING that troubles you*. Jesus Christ is Sovereign!

When we are confronted with upsetting things we can respond in one of three ways. We can ignore the problem and hope that it goes away. We can get upset about the problem and try to do something about it. Or we can take the problem to Jesus.

Jesus said **Come unto ME, and I WILL give you rest**. You will not find rest anywhere outside of Jesus. As we come toward November 4th my prayer is that every person in this house today *seek God's direction in Christ* and then *vote*. I see all types of signs on yards advocating all types of candidates. I wish you would all put "Jesus" signs on your yards, because He is the only One Who will never discourage you. Vote as God leads you. But if your candidate doesn't win this election *don't lose heart*. Take your hearts to Jesus! Focus on Him. When Wall Street loses ground don't despair. Focus on Jesus.

Do as the Psalmist said of God's believers:

Psalms 112:7-8 **He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. {8} His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.**

We do not know what tomorrow shall bring - but Jesus does. Oh Believers, sing with David:

Psalms 57:7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

Fix your hearts upon Jesus, for God has delivered all things into His hands. The Bible tells us that

Colossians 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: {17} And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Jesus holds all things together. The Father has placed all things into His hands, and *He is able*.

Jesus gives us rest in troubled times. Jesus also gives us *rest in our conscience*.

Some men have no conscience, for they have destroyed it by sin. We see this, more and more, as the end of days comes. Yet those of you who are saved by faith in Christ have an *awakened conscience*. God has made your hearts tender towards sin. And when we fail God - and *we will fail God* - we turn to our Mediator, our Advocate with the Father.

Hebrews 9:14-15 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? {15} And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament,

that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Jesus Christ paid for ALL your sins, both past, present, and future. **You are saved to the UTTERMOST because you came unto God by Him (Hebrews 7:25).** When you sin, dear believer, do not wrestle with sin as Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord, for you will do no more than crippled yourself. **Turn your eyes upon Jesus.** As John wrote:

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

You could not bear the burden of your sin prior to your salvation, you cannot bear it now. Do not seek to sin - for you are no longer sin's servant - but **if you sin, you have an Advocate, a Lawyer, a Saviour Who keeps on saving.**

You saw Him on the Tree to be saved, look and see Him still, wounded and bleeding, for you and for me.

ILLUSTRATE Jesus Christ also gives us rest in our Love. We live in a day where people are ceaselessly seeking satisfaction, and yet are never satisfied. I remember, years ago, when television cost nothing. Along came the Cable Stations which advertised "Commercial Free Television" - for a price. That

sounded good to us, so we paid the cost for "Commercial Free Television". After a year or so we saw - believe it or not - *commercials* popping up on our "Commercial Free Television". So now we were paying for television, but it was every bit as irritating with commercials as was the "Free Television". When we tried to switch back to "Free Television" we found that most of the once "Free" stations were now only available on Cable channels. That's how the devil works.

Not so with Jesus.

What He promised two thousand years ago is just as true today. He does not deceive. He is **our Advocate with the Father**. We rest our love on Him, and He eternally rests His love on us. Tell Jesus all your griefs. Tell Him your pain, your heartache, your worry, your all. Let Him have all of you - hold nothing back.

Jesus never gives counterfeit coin to His children. He payed a terrible price for your salvation on Calvary. Do you honestly think that He would abandon that which He so dearly purchased?

I can honestly say in my own life that I have *never prayed a prayer* that the Lord Jesus Christ has not answered. He may not have answered my prayer in the way that I expected, but He has *always* answered my prayers. And He will always answer your prayers if you will bring your burdens to Him. I can also say that I laid awake nights needlessly worrying about things which were my Mediator's problem.

3. What Is Left To The Believer? Obedience, For Our Sakes

FOCAL Matthew 11:29-30 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. {30} For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

What does Jesus Christ require of the believer? Believe Him. Learn of Him. Do as He asks. This is what He says. The Lord Jesus Christ says to those who are His **"Take My yoke upon you"**. A "yoke" was an old fashioned instrument placed around an animal's neck so it could be used. An oxen or a mule had to be "yoked" to a wagon so that it could be of use. The yoke not only made the animal usable, but it also *protected* the animal. If you were to tie an animal to a wagon with but a rope around its neck you could throttle it, or at the least tear into its skin.

Jesus says to those whom He calls **"take My yoke upon you"**. Recognize that I am King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Quit trying to live your lives in your own power - try living it in My power. You see, **My yoke is easy, and My burden is light**. I will not put too heavy a burden upon you, nor will I strain you for My profit.

My yoke - saith the Lord - is in place to *protect* you and to *guide* you, not to abuse you. My yoke is in place so that I can guide you through the *terrors* of life.

Jesus is not telling His saints - nor has He ever told His followers - "You must do thus and so to be saved, or to retain your salvation". No, dear ones, no! The Bible tells us that, even under the Old Covenant:

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

We are not *upright* in ourselves. We are not holy *by our own efforts*. The Apostle rightly declared:

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. {17} For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith.

Or, as we sing:

**What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.**

Salvation is all of faith in Him. It is all of His work. But dear friends, once saved from hell we are only *protected* while in this life while in His yoke.

Only the believer fully submitted to Christ is unafraid of death *and* unafraid of life. While in His yoke you are *invincible and immortal*.

ILLUSTRATE Not too long ago one of our deacons and myself were going to Campbell's Clinic in Germantown. As I drove I began to wonder if maybe I was on the wrong road. At first I considered turning around. But then I rechecked the map I had been using, a map that had not yet given me wrong directions, a map that had proven itself over and over again.

Finally I told my companion "I'm going to follow the map to where it tells me". I put myself under the yoke of that map. And you know what? I got where I needed to be.

Dear friends, Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He saved you on the day that you called on His Name believing. He has never let anyone down - ever - in the history of Christianity. He was true to His Word on the day you were saved. You put yourselves into His yoke then - and were wonderfully blessed. **Come to Him, taking His yoke upon you now. Learn of Him. Heed His Word. Obey His directions.** If you had a human doctor who told you to take thus and such to cure a disease, you would *yoke yourselves to that doctor's directions* and do as he said. Why will you not follow the directions of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We who are humans are who we are - right now - because of the decisions we have made in life. The best decision you can ever make is to *heed Jesus and do as He says*. **Your life is hid in Christ. Your potential to be blessed is in Him.** His promise is to all who believe in Him. For two thousand years believers have been coming to Jesus and He has been giving them rest. Not

only that, when you came to Jesus for rest at eight years of age He gave you rest. If you come again now that you are eighteen, twenty eight, or even eighty eight Jesus will *still* give you rest. He guides those who come unto Him, trusting Him. **John MacArthur** said¹:

"The yoke of the law, the yoke of human effort, the yoke of works, and the yoke of sin are all heavy, chafing, galling yokes. They represent large, unbearable burdens carried in the flesh. They lead to despair, frustration, and anxiety. Jesus offers a yoke we can carry, and He also gives the strength to carry it (Philippians 4:13). Therein is true rest. ... Unlike the Pharisees and scribes, He does not desire to oppress us. He does not want to pile burdens on us that we cannot bear. ... Obedience under His yoke is a joy. It is when we disobey that the yoke chafes our neck."

The eagle has learned that it can fight the wind and fly, or it can surrender to the wind and soar.

By surrendering to the higher power the eagle soars above all. In like manner the Christian must learn to trust the Lord, surrendering daily to His leading and His Word. You can live your lives on your own power, but in the end you will only wear out and become disillusioned and bitter. I know many people like this who are dead men walking, for they do not live in their faith.

In the Name of Christ, live in your faith! **Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him. "As you have therefore**

received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him" (Colossians 2:6). You are only complete in Him (Colossians 2:10). May God touch your hearts with His Word.

¹ *The Gospel According To Jesus* page 122-123

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1. Jesus Christ Is Our Mediator

Matthew 11:3; Matthew 11:5-6; John 9:25; John 11:43; 1 Timothy 6:15; Matthew 11:27; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; John 10:7-9; John 6:35; Hebrews 1:8; Matthew 11:27-28; Hebrews 9:15

2. Our Mediator Promises Us Rest

Matthew 11:28; Mark 10:29-30; Psalms 112:7-8;

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Psalms 57:7; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 9:14-15; 1 John 2:1

**3. What Is Left To The Believer?
Obedience, For Our Sakes**

Matthew 11:29-30; Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:16-17; Colossians 2:6; Colossians 2:10

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