**1] Come To Me**

At first, I was uncertain what to share today. I had prayed and felt like I was supposed to go in a certain direction, but then things just didn’t seem to be coming together. Questions just flooded my mind… I kept thinking, what do I say? How can I blend Mother’s Day with a message to the church? Do I just speak to the mothers?

So, I continued to pray and seek the Lord on what to share for this day. One night after I got ready for bed, I remember saying one last prayer of “Lord, please help me to know what to speak on.” Right before I fell asleep, the words Come To Me came to my mind. And soon after, the verse that I am going to share today came to my mind. I truly believe the Lord has laid on my heart a simple message for us today. I believe He wants us to hear His heart…He wants us Come to Him.

**PRAY.**

***2] Matthew 11:28 - 30***

***Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.***

To give a little context to this verse, Jesus is speaking here to the people of Israel. These were His people. They were people who were not only subjected to the Roman government, harsh and oppressive rulers, but they were also weary and burdened by religious leaders who made up and added rules to the Law of Moses, and made it seem impossible to serve God. Thus, these people were oppressed by the government and made to feel like no matter what they did, they would never be good enough to receive God’s love.

And just like the people of Israel, I believe there are many of us who are walking around, weary and burdened. Not necessarily by our government or even our church, but by the demands we have from our jobs, our family, our friends, and even the unrealistic demands that we put on ourselves to measure up to a standard that is unattainable. To all of us, Jesus would say, “Come to me.”

1. ***3] Come to me***
   1. The Greek word for “Come” is **Deute** - present tense - means “Come now”, not tomorrow, or a month or year from now. Come immediately, don’t wait.
   2. Christ makes an appeal to come to him.
      1. Leave anyone or anything else that you are trusting or depending on.
      2. Move away from the place you are now and move towards and rely on Christ alone.
      3. First, for salvation to those who do not know him as Savior, and second, as help for those who are believers in living this life for Him, to depend on Him.
   3. He’s calling us to an intimate relationship with Him.

He wants us to know HIM. Not just about Him, but to come to Him, to join with Him. There should be an intimacy in our relationship with God.

***4] Jeremiah 29:13: You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.***

We should be seeking Him with our whole heart. Not just with our mouths…”lip service”...but with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. **(*Mark 12:30)***

So, who is Christ inviting to come to him?

1. ***5] All of You who are weary and carry heavy burdens***
   1. His invitation is for everyone…ALL.
      1. The sinner who is deep in sin.
      2. The one who is living for the Lord, but just weighed down by events and circumstances of life.
      3. The one who is trying to earn their salvation by doing good works or trying to do everything right.
   2. Those who carry sin are weighed down by their sin, their disobedience to God.
   3. Those who are weary from life’s circumstances and situations - weary and burdened with concern for others.

***6] Galatians 6:9: Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.***

* 1. Those who are always trying to strive to get everything right, follow every rule - trying to earn God’s love, forgiveness, favor. (This is my struggle).
     1. Comparison to others.
     2. Type A personality.
     3. Teacher

***7] 2 Corinthians 12:9: Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.***

Whatever obstacles exist that burden you down, know that it is God’s will and desire for you to receive His perfect rest. It is His desire that you come to Him, and allow Him to carry your burdens.

1. ***8] And I will give you rest***
   1. A promise and gift of grace to all, not something we deserve or can earn, but rest that is given to us by the Savior.
   2. He gives us complete rest, complete peace, not partial, but complete rest. Rest in this verse is the Greek word **Anapauo [an-ap-ow'-o] - means to refresh, rest up, to cease from labor.**
   3. Rest, escape, deliverance…from sin and its destruction
   4. Rest from relying on ourselves - we can lean on and rest in Him.
   5. Rest from life - the busyness, the things we don’t understand, the things that weigh us down.

***9] Psalm 46:10: Be still and know that I am God.***

I always thought that to be still in this verse meant to be still, not move. “Be still” in this verse actually means to “stop striving” - In relation to our verse, stop trying to earn God’s love, stop comparing yourself to others, stop trying to get it all right - stop carrying around a burden and wearying yourself - be still, receive and learn from the Lord.

1. ***10] Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.***
   1. History of the yoke: wooden bar that two animals would put their heads through to carry heavy things, plow fields
   2. Two oxen put together - Older, more experienced, stronger oxen is put with a younger inexperienced ox to teach him how to carry a heavy load.
   3. If the younger ox tried to do things his way, the older ox would stand still and wait.
      1. Until the younger ox settled down and followed his guidance again.
      2. Until the younger ox was ready to learn.
   4. In reality, the way the yoke is fitted on the two oxen, the older, more experienced one has all the weight on it.
      1. The younger one does not have any weight on it at all.
      2. It gets to go along and enjoy the ride
   5. Jesus invites us to be yoked to Him.
      1. Not out of control or force, but out of love.
      2. He wants to teach us how to live this life for Him.
      3. He wants us to know that we don’t have to live this life alone.
         1. When we try to do things on our own, we start to feel weighed down. He waits for us.
         2. He desires to teach us gently and humbly how to live.
      4. It won’t always be easy, but at least we have Him with us to give us strength to make it through each day and through every trial. He carries the load and teaches us to trust Him.
   6. We can cast all of our cares on him ***(1 Peter 5:7).***
   7. Taking His yoke on us is taking on a relationship with Him, not a list of dos and don’ts.
2. ***11] For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.***
   1. Jesus’ yoke - easy does not mean that life is going to be easy and will never have problems.
      1. ***Jesus says that in this world, we will have trouble…We have an enemy who wants to kill, steal, and destroy us.***
      2. ***12] But we can take heart because He has overcome the world! (John 16:33)***
      3. ***13] He has come to give life abundantly! (John 10:10)***
   2. Our burdens become lighter because we have someone who will share our load because we are in relationship with Him. We have traded in our burdens, for His yoke.

In closing, the idea of being yoked, reminds me of something I read recently:

**14]** In ballroom dancing, the job of the man is to lead. The job of the woman, if her partner knows what he’s doing, is to follow his lead. His job is to watch the floor and see where all the other dancers are. All she does is line up with his movement.

She puts her hand in his hand. She puts her arm on his shoulder and he sets the pace. She yokes herself with him, and as he moves, she moves. She kind of glides and doesn’t worry.

But he has got to keep his eyes open. He’s got to watch the floor. He’s got to make sure that he doesn’t step on her feet. She just moves in line with him. Now, she does move, but because she’s yoked, she glides. He works.

Jesus wants us to know that He’s willing to do the work. He’s willing to take the lead. He’s willing to guide and direct. He’s willing to take us where we need to go, but we must be yoked to Him. We have to be connected with Him and learn how to dance with him. In doing so, we’ll discover that He’s gentle. He won’t hold on too tight or choke the air out of us.

HE WILL GIVE US REST.

(Altar Call and Song: *Come To Me* by Steve and Hannah Musso).