

Come Unto Me

Sermon #1005

Study by W. D. Frazee—December 12, 1981

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" Matthew 11:28-30.

I call attention to some verbs in this message. Come where? Come unto Me. The only way we can come is to leave where we are and go somewhere else. What do we come from? The weariness, the heavy laden burdens. We come to Jesus.

So often we who are attendants trying to get the patients to the Great Physician mistake our roll and suppose we are the doctors. It is easy for patients to get their eyes on us. Our job is to bring men to Christ. We can never impart ourselves that healing virtue which alone can bring rest and release. We must bring men to Christ. It is Jesus on whom our eyes are fixed.

It is a wonderful thing that God has given us the ability to discern the invisible. The things that are seen are visible. They are transitory. They pass away. But the things not seen are eternal.

I don't know whether you have ever analyzed it or not, but whenever you are listening to a discourse one of three attitudes are in your mind. Either wholehearted response, a negative holding back, or else a laodicean, lukewarm bath feeling of being half asleep and not worrying very much one way or the other. The beautiful thing is that we can control our response. We are not like the lizard or snake whose temperature is dependent upon their circumstances and surroundings. God has given us the ability to respond if we will.

So if you would receive the larger blessing that heaven has for you as we study our text, let your heart respond. The first word is come. That is our response. Lord, I come.

In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.

It is a wonderful thing that coming to Jesus does not involve any merits of ours. It is our need which recommends us. Years ago when I was ministering in New Orleans, I was asked one evening to go to pray with a man who was very sick. As I went to the hospital I saw over the great doors through which I entered, CHARITY HOSPITAL. How does a person get in there? Not by having money, but by not having money. So the way you and I come to Jesus is not by having merit, but by not having it.

Take is the next word to notice. Come and take. Take what? Take My yoke upon you.

Someone says, I thought I was weary, and that this was an invitation to rest.

Jesus says, Take My yoke upon you. What is a yoke? An instrument of service. It enables the oxen to pull the plow or wagon. Here we are invited to link up with Jesus in service. I am so glad we have in the physical life an illustration of the kind of rest and refreshment that comes through the right kind of exercise. Did you ever find yourself all weary and worn out? Perhaps you have been sitting at a desk pouring over business or lessons or whatever. Or you may be physically tired. But just the opportunity to walk out into the garden, or under the stars, to breathe the fresh, cold air and behold the glories of the heavens by day or night, it does something for the mind and the body, doesn't it?

So it is in the spiritual life. The rest Jesus offers us is not found in inactivity. It is not found in simply lying and doing nothing. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me. Come and share with Me the experiences. Soul winning is the work that draws and engages the energies to human hearts in such a way that our attention is diverted from ourselves. Much of the rest that we need is the rest that comes from getting our minds off ourselves.

Someone has said that the man who is wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle. It is true. It is tight in there. There is not much room to move around. But Jesus invites us to get our minds on Him, and then to share with Him in getting our minds on the needs of others.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me." How do we learn? We learn by listening. We learn by looking. We learn by experience. Those are the three great ways we learn. We learn as we take in through the eye and the ear. We learn as we experience carrying out that which we are looking at or listening to. In fact, we never truly learn something until we have experienced it.

Have you come to Jesus? You say yes you have. Have you found rest in Him? You say I need more. Well, keep coming then. Keep coming. Jesus has not given us a package deal in which we get enough in one day to last us all our lives. Just as our food sustains us from day to day, and water from hour to hour, and breath from moment to moment, so the gifts of God are given us continually. I need more this morning. That is why I have come. And as we listen to His word and respond to His message, Jesus is giving you and me rest and victory for which we yearn.

"For I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Praise God, we are not in a hopeless search. We are not in a fruitless endeavor. This is something that works. How many of you have found it true? Thank God. That is why God has brought us together this morning, for "My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

I would like to take an example:

"And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep" Matthew 8:23-24.

Jesus asleep? Does He ever sleep? In His humanity, having taken our flesh and encompassed with our infirmities, He was dependent upon sleep as we are. And truly He was exhausted that evening, for He had been ministering all day, healing the sick, preaching and teaching. And as the multitudes thronged Him, He finally sent them to their homes, and asked the disciples to take Him in a boat across the lake, hoping to get a little rest. Having done that, He went to sleep in the boat.

What happened? The tempest arose. But Jesus slept on.

"And His disciples came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!" Matthew 8:25-27.

Why could Jesus sleep through the storm? You say He was so weary. Yes, but His heart was a peace. He rested in perfect surrender to the will of His Father. It is a wonderful thing to cultivate that confidence. We will never receive that blessing if we give prayers to receive what we want; if we trust in God that God will never let anything happen to us that we don't want to happen. Does God ever let anything happen to you that you don't want to happen? Did Jesus want to be crucified? Did He want to have people spit in His face? Did He want to have His own step-brothers reject Him and misunderstand Him? None of these experiences were experiences that He would choose, humanly speaking. But He was so surrendered to His Father's will and so trustful in His Father's love that He was willing to accept whatever the Father saw fit to impart or allow.

And it is only as we enter into that experience of surrendering that we can know His peace. Many people are looking upon religion as a fire escape or as a way to get what they want accomplished. Either escape from some imminent danger or peril, or let God be their stockbroker who will impart to them a lot of riches, and tell them which things to buy. God is not in the business of catering to our selfish desires, but He is in the business of relieving us of those selfish burdens. That is why He says, Take My yoke upon you. The yoke of Jesus is an experience of utter surrender to the Father, so we, like Jesus, can say, I have come not to do my own will, but the will of Him that sent me. That is why Jesus could rest there in the boat with the tempest. That is why in peace He could stand and rebuke the winds and the waves.

But notice what happened as soon as they got to land. It was beautiful that morning. The sun had come out of a clear sky, bathing the landscape with light. But soon there was something more terrible than the tempest that had recently come upon them. There in the country of the Gergesenes two men possessed with devils

came out of the tombs raging and foaming at the mouth and rattling the chains that they had broken. They were seeking to attack Jesus and His disciples. The disciples ran to the boat. But Jesus, still with that peace and rest in His heart, lifted His hands and commanded the spirits of the Devil to leave those men. They were released from that terrible slavery, and soon were sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to His words.

The disciples lacked the peace and rest to meet the tempest. They lacked the peace and rest to meet those demoniac. Dear friends, God has not asked us to meet such terrible emergencies every day, but He is seeking to discipline us by little trials and tests and temptations to find in Him peace and rest. But peace and rest can come only as we accept the Father's will. Not that we mark out a path and say, Dear Lord, do this for me. Rather we say, Dear Lord, what we want is Your will.

I remember when my brother and I were little sometimes we would come to dad and say, "Papa, do you love me?"

"Yes, I love you."

"Will you give me a nickel?"

A nickel was worth more then than it is now. A nickel was a lot of money to a poor family. But it is an interesting childish idea. Do you love me? Give me a nickel.

Thank God, we have Someone better than Santa Clause in charge of our lives. Aren't you glad? And to know the Father's will and receive the Father's peace is worth more than all the nickels or gold pieces, or anything this world can offer. Have you found it so, my friend? Oh, how many are wearing out their vitality, using their life forces as they struggle for position or fame or money, or for something. And all the while Jesus is inviting, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

I know that tomorrow there will be tests and trials. I know that tomorrow I can have a greater peace and rest than I have yet found. But I thank God this morning that I can have all I can hold. I have not yet experienced all my Father has planned for me, but He has planned for me to keep experiencing more day by day. I thank God that I know more of it now than I used to, and I expect to learn more as I keep in His school.

While we recognize that we have not yet achieved, it is a wonderful thing to know we have found what we want and want nothing else. When you have found the right piece of music you want to hear it again and again. When you have found the right food, whether it is a rich, ripe watermelon or a good piece of wholewheat bread, you may not have all you desire, but you know that you want another helping. So we come to Jesus. It may be that we come as those men from the tombs came in such a way that others do not recognize that we want help. But if, in our deepest

hearts, we cry out for help, there is help for us. Jesus is saying, I will help you. I love you. I want you to have peace and rest in Me.

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