

Come unto Me
(Matthew 11:28-30)

Introduction:

1. These verses record what is commonly called "the great invitation."
2. In our lesson we are examining:
 - a. the source of this invitation
 - b. the recipients of this invitation
 - c. the blessing associated with this invitation.

Discussion:

- I. LET US IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE GREAT INVITATION
 - A. It is important for us to properly identify the source because the one who gave it said, "*Come unto me.*"
 - B. Jesus, the Son of God, is the one who extends this invitation (see vs.25-27).
 - C. (vs.29) He described Himself as being "*meek and lowly in heart.*"
 1. Later, Jesus demonstrated His meekness when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (Matthew 21:1-5; Zechariah 9:9).
 2. We must not confuse His meekness with weakness (Matthew 21:12-14).
 3. Because the Lord is meek He will not force anyone to come to Him -- it is up to us to accept or decline His invitation.
 4. Love for the Lord will motivate us to come to Him on His terms (John 14:15).
 - D. In addition to being meek, Jesus is able to empathize with us in our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15).
- II. LET US IDENTIFY THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GREAT INVITATION
 - A. The Lord invites all who "*labor and are heavy laden*" to come to Him.
 1. Those who "*labor*" are exhausted from burdens or grief.
 2. Those who are "*heavy laden*" are burdened down from the weight of sin.
 - B. As we think about those Jesus invites to come to Him, let us remember that:
 1. He has compassion on people in these categories (Matthew 9:36)
 2. He came "*to heal the brokenhearted*" (Luke 4:16-21; Isaiah 61:1-2).
 - C. Those who accept the Lord's invitation and come to Him on His terms will receive a special blessing.
- III. LET US IDENTIFY THE BLESSING ASSOCIATED WITH THE GREAT INVITATION
 - A. Jesus gives "*rest*" (vs.28) that He described as "*rest unto your souls*" (vs.29) [tranquility of the soul].
 - B. Specific blessings that relate to this spiritual rest include:
 1. forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:7, 9)
 2. life (John 10:10b)
 3. peace (John 14:27)
 4. joy (John 15:11)
 5. mercy and grace (Hebrews 4:16)
 6. hope (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Conclusion:

1. To receive the Lord's rest we must:
 - a. come to Him
 - b. take His yoke upon us
 - c. learn of [from] Him.
2. The Lord gives us responsibilities, but His "*yoke is easy,*" and His "*burden is light.*"
3. Do you need to accept the Lord's invitation?