

I Will Give You Rest

Matthew 11:28

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

Something we have known all of our life is hard to forget. The Jews that Jesus was talking to had been taught early and often that the Messiah would come and restore Israel from the hands of their captors. In this same chapter even John is confused about the role Jesus is supposed to play.

Many in the crowd had determined that Jesus was not the Savior that had been foretold and therefore rejected him. But within this audience there were people who believed in Jesus. Being surrounded by the unbelievers, their weak faith needed bolstering. The religious leaders of that day made life even more difficult. They demanded an unbalanced obedience to all the commands of the Torah. They also were expanding the number of the Jewish traditions, often called the oral Torah. All of this was very overwhelming.

We live in a fast-paced culture where we often work without rest. So often we work hard and live fast because we're never quite sure we're measuring up. How many of us, then, need to hear the reassurance that Christ has come not to add to our burdens, but to carry them in our place? He does the measuring up for us. He kept the Law in our stead and would bear our sins in his own body on the tree of the cross.

Jesus invites us to receive the joy of the Gospel, which guarantees true rest.

Prayer: Dearest Jesus, I praise You that when I am yoked to You, no burden is too heavy. Amen. (TLSB)