

Rest From Jesus

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

Everyone of us wants and longing for rest in this life where everything becoming difficult. There are now more facilities that make life easier, but we know also the more these facilities are present the more life become complicated because the demands become more. The more appliances you have, the more maintenance you need, the more expenses and the more time you have to spend. Here at this time of history and at this place of the world there is a demand for rest. We may look to the right and to the left, and we hear the voice of Him, the Creature is saying, ***“I will give you rest.”*** Everyone needs rest and that rest we find and we can receive only from Jesus. Jesus will give us rest now for this life, where we can live life and life to the full on earth. And from Jesus we will have rest for our souls for the life to come. After death the souls that are wicked will go to hell where they will be tormented forever. But Jesus had promised us rest for our souls, we who obey God and walk according to His will. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who repented from the wrong ways of life and gives his life to Him. Jesus will come to take us with Him to heaven where we will have rest and forever in His presence.

Do you want rest? If yes then persevere with me to the end of the message.

To find this rest and in the context of the passage Jesus commanded three things.

1- Come to me: You need to come to Jesus, fully to Him and surrender everything (Your heart, life, body, future, present, etc) to Him. There is no other way but Jesus as He promised in ***John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*** When we say Jesus we mean the word of God, and to come to Jesus is to come and accept the Word of God in our lives.

2- Take my yoke upon you: Be willing to be yoked with Jesus. Do you know what yoke is? Yoke is an instrument they use to bind two oxen together to plow the ground so they will walk together and in one direction; so no one can go faster or slower, or one will go ahead and the other lag behind. By the yoke no one will go to the right and the other to the left because they are yoked. Yoke in that context is restriction and limitation. Some times we think the yoke of Jesus is heavy and restrict us. But the yoke of Jesus is not suffering. The yoke of Jesus is not heaviness but rest and peace; that is why He says my yoke is easy.

What are the privileges to be yoked with Jesus?

A- Correct direction from the Lord. B- Constant guidance from the Lord. C- Protection from errors and wrong decisions; therein lays the rest. D- The burden become light because as long we are yoked with Him, He is also carrying the burden. The Yoke of Jesus is true Rest. Many they understand if they surrender fully to God they will have suffering but here Jesus is saying will give us rest.

Why certain times we suffer? Because we are yoked with something else! What are the things that we are yoked with and not with Jesus and these are the causes of our troulbers and sufferings?

1- Pride: Every human had a certain pride in his life and certain setup in his mind and he is yoked with that setup; he lives in his own world and atmosphere and he is yoked with that pride that will cause him trouble and prize that he needs to pay. Certain time we know very well we are wrong but our pride does not accept correction, therefore we will bear the consequences of what we do.

2- Tradition: There are things we use to do and become the tradition that we are accustomed ourselves with. And with time the traditional things that we do become as habit and take the form of ritual thing that we yoke ourselves with and that causes us suffering because we are no more yoked with Jesus. Little deviation from the truth, at the beginning the angle is small, but with the time the two ends of the angle would become so far, so we are unaware we become far away from Jesus, and so we suffer.

3- Sins and bad habits: Certain sins dictate certain way of life and our yoke with that sin destroys the abundant life that Jesus promised to us. We will find no rest until we repent of that particular sin and surrender everything to Jesus and be willing to be yoked with Him.

4- Friends: Non-believers friends and bad companion that we are yoked with will take us into wrong direction and we will find ourselves being pledged with dangerous ties and wrong decisions.

5- Relatives and cultural values: Some are yoked with what their nations dictates, with what their national cultures dictates and not yoked with Jesus. They observe certain seasons, celebrations and certain detrimental habits that are routed from the culture but not from the Word of God. We need to check ourselves if we are yoked with such things and we are unaware of that.

6- Religion: Certain people bound with their previous religions and previous traditional church and don't like to break that yoke and come fully to Jesus.

You may add to the list and may be the Holy Spirit will show you more things you yoked yourselves with. But you can pray and ask God to break whatever yoke that you are bound with and cause you suffering in order for you to get delivered and be set free.

3- Learn from me: We need to learn from Jesus the true ways of life so we will enjoy life and have rest. The ways that God offer to us to learn are the following? 1-The Word of God (We need to be instructed by the Word). 2- The Holy Spirit (We need to be led by The Holy Spirit). 3- The People whom God anoint and ordained in the church to teach us. 4- Our wrong decisions and failures teach us to repent and come back to the Lord.

My Dear and Beloved: Are you tired of your life? Are you struggling with many wrong decisions, and going wrongly with your own ways of understanding. Are you yoked and in bondage? If that is your situation and your life, Jesus is for you and He will help you and restore you. So trust Him, and don't be afraid to come to him. Be yoked with Him and willing to learn from Him as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I am coming to you and to your Word. I am willing to be yoked with you, leaving behind all my pride, sins, friends, traditions and all my wrong doings. I want to learn from you, teach me your ways, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*