

111322 Sermon "How to find rest for your souls" Matthew 11:28-30

Jim Corley met his friend, Alex, at the dealership where Alex worked.

"Jim, I feel like a hypocrite every time I go to church because I fail to live for Christ so often."

"Alex, what do you call this part of the dealership?" Jim asked, nodding to the area outside his cubicle. "You mean the showroom?"

"Yes. And what's behind the showroom, past the parts counter?"

"The service department," Alex said confidently.

"What if I told you I didn't want to bring my car to the service department because it was running rough," Jim asked.

"That would be crazy! That's the whole point of service departments—to fix cars that aren't running right."

"You're absolutely right," Jim replied. "Now, let's get back to our initial conversation. Instead of thinking of church as a showroom where image is everything, start thinking of it as God's service department. Helping people get back in running order with God is what the church is all about."

In this world, is there anyone who is not weary and burdened? "Like a Bridge Over Troubled Water" was released in 1970 by Simon and Garfunkel. The title track won an unprecedented five Grammy Awards. The album stayed at #1 for 10 weeks, remained on the chart for a total of 85 weeks. It sings, "When you're weary, feeling small, When tears are in your eyes I will dry them all." Do you know that Paul Simon wrote this song fairly quickly, inspired by an old southern gospel song?

"Weary" is KOPIO in Greek, and it means "sweat to exhaustion." And one becomes spent. No matter who it may be, everyone feels the weight of this life. Because of this weight of life, we become exhausted. Sometimes, we become spent and tired. But for those who know the weight of their lives, Jesus says, "Come to me."

Then, what does He say He would give? Yes, He will give you rest. When you're weary, when you're down, how do you take care of yourself? Take a walk, exercise, listen to music, meet friends, and do other hobbies. They are definitely what you need. But, don't forget to come to Jesus as well.

Rest in Greek is ANAFAUO. It is a combined word of two words: ANA means "in the middle, above, through" and FAUO means "To stop, leave, liberate from sin." It means that Jesus will give us a sense of refreshment from those that worry and pain us. Do you have many worries? He says He will give you rest from those worries. Are you worried about your livelihood because of the current circumstances that don't seem to get better? From those worries, He says he will give you rest.

One of my favorite hymns is "Go, carry thy burden to Jesus."

Verse 1 sings, "Go, carry thy burden to Jesus, And lay down thy load at His feet, Where Calvary's cross is uplifted, Find pardon and comforting sweet.

(Refrain) O, steal away softly to Jesus, To Him let thy heart be outpoured;

Thy Father, who seeth in secret, Shall give thee a gracious reward." (Amen)

Such a beautiful hymn, isn't it?

I hope and pray that you would face toward the Lord and come to Him not only Sunday but every day. The prophet Jeremiah said, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

To have rest in your heart, first you have to come to the Lord. The second is that once you come to the Lord, you should be able to entrust your life to His reign. He told us to "Take upon my yoke." Brothers and sisters in Christ, we may often think, "The burden of my life is already too heavy. Why does he expect us to take more burden and his burden? How merciless?"

But here, we should pay attention to "take upon my yoke." At the time, people made yokes with wood and made it fit the neck of the animal that would be bearing it. Yoke was made for the cattle to bear, for the owner to control that animal. In Greek, yoke is JIGOS. It means "to join." In order to join the direction of our lives to the owner or the Lord, we need a yoke! Also, it expresses our desire to entrust our lives and live according to the guidance of our Lord when we take upon the yoke.

Some people, although they have been attending church for a very long time, think that taking the yoke is only for the pastors and missionaries. But that isn't so. Taking the yoke of the Lord applies to anyone who wants rest from him. If we do not take upon ourselves the yoke of the Lord, we cannot find rest in our hearts and in our souls. Taking upon his yoke means that I will give up the old habit of sticking to my own way and take the Lord's way in prayer and in the word of God. Taking upon his yoke means more of Jesus less of me. It means he must increase, but I must decrease. And look next. "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me."

Now that we have taken His yoke, we worry... what if our Lord mistreats us like a tyrant or evil manager? But according to the Scripture, the reason why we can bear His yoke is because the heart of Jesus is gentle and humble. So no need to worry.

Our Lord did not tell us to take His yoke to oppress us. He never gave us a yoke that we could not bear. If we feel like if the weight of our lives is too heavy and uncomfortable, we should examine if we continue to live according to my way and stubbornness without taking His yoke, though we say we believe in Him. Only when we take His yoke---in other words obey His Word--can we have true rest.

An old man was sharing the gospel with college students that were walking by. Although most students simply passed by this old man, one student asked him, "So, do you still believe that Jesus turned water into wine, this lunacy? The old man answered, "if you really want, Jesus can not only turn water into wine, but turn wine into water right here for you." "Really? Then show me!"

The old man said, "Go to the town across the street from the school and ask the townspeople if they know a man named Gypsy Smith. Then they will tell you that he was an infamous alcoholic. He couldn't live a day or even an hour without drinking alcohol. But now he doesn't drink alcohol at all; he only drinks water and lives his life joyfully with gratitude. That man is the guy in front of you right now. So Jesus did perform a miracle. He continues to not only turn water into wine, but also turn wine into water! This is a story of an English revivalist, Gypsy Smith. God is at work among us even now. God is alive! He makes a miracle called "transformation." In the midst of it, you and I are.

Dear beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, are you weary and burdened? Come to the Lord who are gentle and humble. And take His yoke upon yourselves. Learn from the Lord. "The yoke of the Lord". . . it may have been intimidating when we didn't know, but once we realize it in the light of His grace, it is certainly grace upon grace. I pray and bless in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that His grace would firmly hold you and give you rest this week. Fairfield Grace, may God's grace, peace, goodness, and mercy be with you, your family, your business, your studies, and with the lives of your children. Amen.