

RSVP: THE ULTIMATE INVITATION
GOD'S INVITATION
MATTHEW 11:28-30

INTRODUCTION:

1. Drama

2. Matthew 11:28-30

3. God's Invitation

I. GOD IS AN INVITING GOD

A. Last week: Jesus saw the crowds and instructed his followers.

This week: Jesus saw the crowds and invited them.

B. V.28, "Come."

C. 264 times God invites us to "come."

D. God is not chasing us away from Himself.

E. The Devil has told you that God is rejecting you.

F. Are we chasing others away from us, the church, or God Himself?

G. Or, are we living an inviting lifestyle?

H. Is our church an inviting environment?

I. Are we saying, "Come!"

J. God is an inviting God. We should be as well.

II. GOD INVITES HURTING PEOPLE

A. V.28, "All of you who are weary and burdened."

B. Context: The Jews were weary and worn out carrying the burden of the law.

C. 1251 commandments just for the Sabbath. James Stewart – "A Man in Christ."

D. Alfred Edersheim, "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah"

1. House on fire

2. Tailor

E. They were trying to please God with good works. Religion was nothing but a burden, no joy, no purpose, no fulfillment.

F. Galatians 5:1, "Don't let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." NIV

G. Peter says in Acts 15:10, "Why, then, are you now testing God by putting on the disciples' neck a yoke that neither our forefathers nor we have been able to bear?"

H. People today are burdened and broken.

I. Life is complex and problematic.

J. Why are they weary and burdened?

1. Sin

2. Failure

3. Broken relationships

4. Guilt

- 5. Financial problems
- 6. Pain – physical, emotional, spiritual
- 7. Despair – fell hopeless
- K. Spanish Inquisition – put a man in a room where he could not stand up.
- L. They don't think they are invited or they don't feel worthy to be invited.
- M. God invites hurting people. We need to invite hurting people.

III. GOD INVITES HURTING PEOPLE TO A RELATIONSHIP

A. V.28, "Come to Me."

B. T.V. commercials say, "Come to this thing. I will give you rest."

C. Jesus says, "Come to a relationship not religion."

D. Revelation 3:20, "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me."

E. God is inviting us to Him.

IV. GOD INVITES HURTING PEOPLE TO FIND REST

A. V.28, "I will give you rest."

B. "Rest" – relief

C. Life is not just bearable, but life can be blessed.

D. He is saying to the Jew, "You don't have to wake up every morning with all these burdens feeling like you can't win. No more!"

E. This rest gives a person the capacity not only to experience life, but to love life, to anticipate tomorrow, not dread it.

F. You can say, “Good morning Lord” instead of “Good Lord it’s morning.”

G. Why? Because of His:

1. Authority

a. V.19, “Take up My yoke and learn from Me.”

b. The term “yoke was used to describe different aspects of Jewish life. In each situation it was a symbol of obligation and subjection.

i. Jewish sinner – “one who throws off the yoke of God.” This meant to reject the authority of God.

ii. The term was frequently related to the Law with all its demanding rules and traditions. A Jew was bound to the “yoke of the Law.”

iii. Among the Jews, a student who submitted himself to the guidance of a teacher was described as taking the “yoke of the instructor.”

c. So, when Jesus said, “Take up My yoke,” He meant, “Enroll in My school, be My disciple and student; submit yourself to My instruction.”

d. His yoke, however, is totally different. It is not obedience to any external laws or traditions but loyalty to a Person.

e. Our goal as a church is to help people find Christ and help them learn from Him.

f. Christ says not only “be mine, but be mature.”

g. “Don’t just get saved, but get surrendered to Me.”

h. Jesus can give rest because He has the authority to do so.

2. Character

a. V.29, "I am gentle and humble in heart."

b. It is this character that brings rest to the soul and, therefore, gives man a reason why he should become His disciple.

c. To be a student of Jesus is to have a very gentle and humble-minded Teacher, who is never impatient with those who are slow to learn and never intolerant with those who stumble.

d. Christ is not another law-giver like Moses, nor is He like the Scribes and Pharisees who heartlessly pile on burdens. They are not qualified to give rest.

e. Christ character qualifies Him to give men rest.

3. Power

a. V.30, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

b. "Easy" – "well fitting"

c. Christ is saying, "The life I give you is not a burden to irritate you, but your task is custom made to fit you."

d. Therefore, to take the yoke of Christ is not a burden.

e. His yoke is light.

f. This sounds like changing one load for another, but His yoke are commands to trust Him. Let him work through you. Let Him carry the burden.

g. This does not mean we are free from challenges or suffering, but we are hitched to His yoke.

- h. He has the power to lighten the load and give rest.
- H. God invites hurting people to find rest because He is qualified based on His authority, character and power.

CONCLUSION:

1. Max Lucado – Two boys broke into a department store and switched the tags. Valuable goods became cheap, vice versa.
2. This can happen to us. What is that thing in your life that you believe is so valuable, but it's become a burden?
3. Jesus says, "Come and I will give you rest."
4. God wants us to invite hurting people to Christ.
5. He is an inviting God.
6. Are you living an inviting lifestyle?