

FINDING TRUE REST PRT 2 - THE INVITE AND THE PROMISE

Without wasting your time, I want to go straight to the subject of our talk this morning. Last week, I introduced our new series titled **FINDING TRUE REST**.

Last week, we observed that we are living in a restless society; people are weary and heavily burdened. The signs are worrying, and as a result, people are looking for relief and a way out.

Matthew 11:28 NIV “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

- This morning, I want to build on it by talking to you on a message: **THE INVITE AND THE PROMISE**.
- Having observed the prevailing situation, Jesus makes an invitation to the weary and the burdened.
- When you are sick, you go to a doctor; when you need bread, you go to the bakery and buy some, when you need to fix your Toyota, you should go to an authorized Toyota outlet.
- Here, we have Jesus positioning Himself as the remedy for those who are weary and burdened.
- To everyone weary and burdened, you face two things – the first is the invitation, and the second is the promise.
- Finding rest demands a response of faith to the invitation.
- Whilst Jesus makes an open invitation to the weary and heavily burdened, one can only access that rest by responding in faith.
- That is why you must respond to the invitation by faith and not by feelings. There is nothing that offers rest like Jesus does.

Isaiah 55:1 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost!

- Looking into the future, Isaiah unpacks the solution to the many issues humanity faces. He saw into the future, the cross and the gospel, and how that would enable the sinful, the suffering, and the dying man to find healing and rest.
- Isaiah uses the following metaphors to highlight the needs of humanity, which are both physical and spiritual: water, milk, wine, and bread.
- Isaiah tells us that the solution to your burden is freely available at the foot of the cross – he says come and get all this without spending a dime.
- He says, “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost!”

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- The only currency required is the currency called faith. Unless you believe that Christ is enough to deal with your burdens, you will never find rest.
- In other words, stop running away from the cross.
- The invitation requires a faith response, saints – Isaiah encourages the people to pursue God whilst He can be found.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek Jehovah while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.

- I am echoing Isaiah's call to all who are burdened to step up their pursuit of Jesus. In other words, if you are to obtain God's favor in light of your burdens, you must be diligent in seeking Him.
- You will diligently seek Him when you believe that He is enough for you and well able to quench your thirst.
- No one who has sought the Lord has gone without finding relief.

Psalms 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry for His help reached His ears.

- Our God hears, our God is concerned, and He always responds to the calls of help.
- The psalmist had deep troubles in his life, and he learnt to always call on the name of the Lord. In his distress, David sought God's face.
- The battle you will face is that to every promise, there is a counterfeit offer from the devil.

Isaiah 55: 2 Why spend money on that which is not bread, and your labor on that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of foods

- The devil will present plausible solutions to your weariness. The devil will place divorce as a way out to deal with your marital problems.
- There is a counterfeit solution for your financial woes (cheating the system, corruption, gambling, etc.)
- There is a counterfeit solution to your emotional turmoil (abuse of substances, emotional eating, suicide as a way of ending it all)
- The counterfeits proposed by the devil tend to appeal to the flesh and yet they are not free and will always cost you more than the current burden.
- Whenever you look at your burden with eyes of the flesh, you will fall into the trap of the counterfeit.

FINDING TRUE REST PRT 2 - THE INVITE AND THE PROMISE

- Don't look at your trouble through the eyes of the world because the world is not interested in your well-being. That is why we are encouraged to look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.
- The Just shall live by faith and not by sight – the solutions for the just are faith-driven and not convenience-driven.
- Solutions for the just are not driven by comfort but by conviction and faith. In other words, the way of rest is not always the easy one but one that glorifies God and character building.
- **Whist on one side, you have the invitation requiring faith, on the other side you have the promise of rest.**
- This promise is only available to those who respond to the invitation by faith.
- *Matthew 11:28 NIV* “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- The initial reading of this verse gives us the illusion of the rest we sought being received as a gift we get from Jesus.
- When you do further studies of this verse, you will discover that the literal translation would be “I will rest you or I will be your rest you.” How would it read, if we are to input the literal translation?

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

- I quite like that because the rest we get is not simply a gift we receive, but rather the person of Jesus Himself.
- Jesus is our peace and rest, and when we have Him, we can lie in rest even when our outward troubles persist.
- Christ is our rest; in Him we rest from trying things by ourselves, in Him we have the rest of faith, of pardon, of a quieted conscience, of filial communion with God

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- We received a son, given as a gift – when you find Christ, you find rest. It is not about what Christ can give you but who He is to you.
- This rest we are talking about goes beyond what you can receive but is anchored in a relationship.
- We don't go looking for rest, but instead we go looking for a person.

FINDING TRUE REST PRT 2 - THE INVITE AND THE PROMISE

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid

- Jesus was preparing His disciples for death and he could see that they were deeply troubled and sorrowful.
- He stood among them and declared that He will give them Peace. The greeting of peace was well known among the Jews, with popular greeting of Shalom, Shalom. It was a salutation that conferred well-being and goodness to people.
- It was sometimes uttered by people who had no capacity to bring it about but before them was someone who could not only utter it but was capable of bringing it about and to sustain.
- Man will promise you what they cannot realize but Christ will bring out and sustain rest in your life.
- I am here to redirect your focus as you pursue rest and peace in your life. Go to Jesus for the sake of relationship with and not what He can do for you. If you go to Jesus for what He can do for you, you might be disappointed. He will not always give you bread but He will always be with you in your hunger.

John 6: 25 When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they asked Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?" 26 Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, it is not because you saw these signs that you are looking for Me, but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

- During the ministry of Jesus on earth, the Jews were after the bread Jesus had given them and not after Jesus, the bread.
- Jesus is the bread of life, Jesus is the light of the world, Jesus is the rest of the world, Jesus is all you need.