

Come and Rest

Isaiah 66:1-24; Matthew 11:25-30 / Psalm 111:1-10

I. Christianity Is a Mystery to Outsiders

A. God hides the deep things of grace from people who measure reality by the world rather than the Word and makes them obvious to those who trust Him as babies trust their parents. At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because *thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.* (MATTHEW 11:25)

B. God knew what He was doing when He determined to manage truth His own way. Even so, *Father:* for so *it seemed good in thy sight.* (MATTHEW 11:26)

II. Do Not Presume to Know What Isn't Revealed

A. God explains reality through revelation. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and *no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.* (MATTHEW 11:27)

B. Spiritual things can only be understood by people who have the receptors to receive them. But *the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit* of God: for they are foolishness unto him: *neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* (1 CORINTHIANS 2:14)

C. God selects those who will receive the gospel; redemption and understanding are both all of grace. *I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me;* and they have kept thy word. (JOHN 17:6) *along with* For *by grace are ye saved* through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* For *we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* (EPHESIANS 2:8-10)

III. Approach God on His Terms

A. God calls His people to Himself and to rest. *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* (MATTHEW 11:28)

B. Life is hard and demanding. For *we are consumed by thine anger,* and by thy wrath are we troubled. *Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.* For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale *that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.* (PSALM 90:7-10)

C. God excludes all ways out of the human condition but through Him. *Look unto me, and be ye saved,* all the ends of the earth: *for I am God, and there is none else.* I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in righteousness,* and shall not return, That *unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.* (ISAIAH 45:22-23)

D. Having excluded the world's schemes and devices, God summons those who hear to come to Him by grace and bring others with them. And the Spirit and the bride say, *Come. And*

let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.** (REVELATION 22:17)

E. God summons His people into the life which He first illustrated and argues that it is the only way to deep soul-satisfaction. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (MATTHEW 11:29) **along with For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.** (JOHN 13:15)

F. The storm and drama of life subside when a person understands God's place for a believer in the world. **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.** These things have I **spoken** unto you, **that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.** This is my commandment, That ye **love one another, as I have loved you.** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.** (JOHN 15:10-14)

G. Genuine rest and peace are appropriate goals set for His people by God Himself. For **my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.** (MATTHEW 11:30) **Peace I leave with you,** my peace I give unto you: **not as the world giveth,** give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.** (JOHN 14:27)