

COME TO ME

(Matt. 11:28)

In rejecting Jesus, the detractors cut off the only means of knowing God. Jesus said that all things (revelatory) have been revealed to Him (Mt. 11:27). The only way to know the Father is by virtue of the Son revealing Him. But then immediately Christ invites ALL to come to Him.

Matthew 11:28 (NKJV)

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

The only one who can know the Father is the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him, and with that thought in mind, Christ invites ALL to come to Him – ALL who labor and are heavy laden – with the promise that if they come, He will give them rest.

“Come to Me” is tantamount to repenting and believing on Him. To come is to recognize Him for WHO He is and, on that basis, come -recognizing Him as the God-source of rest.

John 6:35 (NKJV)

35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Clearly Jesus equates coming to Him with believing on Him.

The object of faith is not a church, a ritual, a sacrament, a creed, or a clergyman, but rather Christ Himself. Salvation is in a PERSON, and His name is Jesus!

Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name [Person] under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

1 John 5:12 (NKJV)

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

And the invitation is to ALL who labor and are heavy laden. Note the invitation is not merely to some but rather to ALL. The one condition is that we must COME.

Isaiah 55:1 (NKJV)

1 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, **Come** to the waters; And you who have no money, **Come**, buy and eat. Yes, **come**, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “**Come!**” And let him who hears say, “**Come!**” And let him who thirsts **come**. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Ya gotta wanna! You have to come, and of course that doesn’t happen apart from divine intervention, but when God is calling you must come. As Hebrews 3:7-8 says, “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...”.

The invitation is to all who labor and are heavy laden. The word “*labor*” (Gk. kopiao) is sometimes translated as weary. It has the idea of being exhausted through strenuous toil or struggling. “*Heavy laden*” is the idea of being burdened down or overloaded, like a beast of burden.

Some think that the emphasis here is in relation to sin and its consequences, while others think the emphasis is on the bondage of Jewish legalism. Both certainly apply, and one certainly involves the other.

In the greater context was a burdensome legalistic religious system. In Matthew 9:36, we saw that Jesus was moved with compassion as He looked on the multitudes because they were weary [or harassed] like sheep without a shepherd. Judaistic legalism was HARD.

Matthew 23:4 (NKJV)

4 For they bind **heavy burdens, hard to bear**, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Acts 15:10 (NKJV)

10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples **which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?**

In reality, what Jesus is asking them to do is to jettison the “Lordship” of their religious legalism and come to Him as Lord, and He would give them rest. It’s all a matter of who or what is going to be Lord of your life.

Note that “rest” here is a GIFT. Christ says, “I will give you rest.” You don’t earn it or work for it. He, as the sovereign Lord, has the authority to GIVE it to you as a gift if you will but come to Him.

Trying to work your way to God is nothing but exhausting and a very heavy burden. What a relief we have in Christ, Who gives us REST simply for coming to Him in faith. That is all He requires. Now it must be the right kind of faith involving repentance, which the context makes clear, but the only condition for entering into Christ’s REST is coming to Him.

As a footnote, some see here an echo from Jeremiah 31:25 where God promises satisfaction for the weary soul in close connection with the promise of a new covenant (cf. Jer. 31:31-33). Others see an echo from Jeremiah 6:16, where God invites the people to walk in the good way and thereby find “rest for your souls,” and this “good way” ultimately leads to Christ, Who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6).

Those who REST in Jesus have ceased from their own works in trying to get right with God. Instead, they now have their REST completely in Jesus.

Hebrews 4:9–10 (NKJV)

9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." – **Augustine**

Jesus invites ALL to come to Him and find REST in Him!