

## **Come Unto Me dear Mothers, and I Will Give You Rest**

Matthew 11:28-30,  
Easter Sunday V, May 10, 2015

Sermon Text Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV): *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Beloved of the Lord.....Let us begin today with a brief disclaimer regarding the sermon title: “Come unto Me dear mothers, and I will give you rest.” Jesus did not literally say “Come unto Me dear Mothers”, but He desires all sinners to come to Him for forgiveness. Yet this sermon title is fitting on Mother’s Day, for this is indeed the good and gracious will of Jesus for all mothers. Namely when you are stressed in life, weighed down by your sins, discouraged by the bad behavior of your children, fearful for their salvation, Jesus wants you to come to Him so you can rest. Go to Jesus in prayer, and Jesus will be your refuge from the storm. His gracious arms are a quiet and safe resting place where we can live, by grace through faith. Psalm 27 says, “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

All this is said because regarding the mothers in this congregation, I have two general observations. The first thing I would like to say, is that we have some very devout and faithful Christian mothers in this congregation, both young and old, and the Bible does say “Honor Thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee.” Simply because they are our mothers, God commands us to honor them, and if they are a true Christian mother, they should be all the more exalted in our sight. Indeed our Lord commands us to praise such believing women in Proverbs 31 which says, “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” Thus today let us recognize and commend the good women of this congregation who have done these good works to the glory of God in such a selfless and sacrificial manner.

But the second observation I have today regarding our good mothers here is this, they need spiritual rest. They need to be assured and reaffirmed that through Christ they have spiritual peace, forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting in heaven. When your life is hard and difficult dear mother (for God does test and try your faith), you need to go to Jesus in faith and prayer and firmly believe all the promises of salvation He has given you. Let the certain love of Jesus for your soul be your hope and strength daily. When you find yourself discouraged as a mother, or you have strife in your marriage so that your sins weigh upon you, or you are fearful for your children’s salvation, or perhaps even your own, understand Jesus wants you to lay your weary head upon Him so you can rest. Since He has already paid for all your sins with His holy blood, Jesus has not one word of

condemnation for you but rather He wants us firmly to believe all sins are forgiven for His sake. Therefore “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.” There is then a way for every believer to rest and have peace no matter how bad the state of our world today. Your rest and peace is in Jesus. If simply you believe, you will find a wonderful rest for your soul.

I. Who is Jesus speaking to, and to whom does Jesus promise rest? When Jesus says in our text today, “Come unto Me”, He is speaking to “all you that labor and are heavy laden.” This is not a reference to jobs and employment, but this is spiritual labor and spiritual rest. Thus we speak here of sin and its burden upon us, and what to do with our troubled conscience. Keeping our focus on mothers, what are the sins that trouble a mother’s soul? Usually it is her sins against her husband and children. One of the common faults of most wives is that they fail to give proper honor to their husbands as the head of the household. God’s commandment for wives is stated in Ephesians 5. “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church.” When a wife despises the authority of her own husband, she is despising Jesus in her heart, for she is not obeying Jesus’ words. Moreover it is a common fault of wives to try to control the behavior of their husbands, rather than meekly submitting to their will, trusting in God above all things. Some women are exceedingly wicked here and they view their marriage as a 50/50 deal. They claim equality with their husbands but they have sold themselves a lie because inwardly they want to rule their husbands, and many do. And just as bad, there are many husbands who forsake their God-given office as the head of the household, and they let their wives rule. By doing this they confuse their own children as to who is the boss. No husband should fear the wrath of his wife, but every wife should fear the wrath of her husband because God has given him authority over her. But he is not to abuse that authority of course, but every husband should love and cherish their wife deeply in their heart.

But it is a great sin if a wife wants to rule her husband. This is like a woman saying to Christ, “Dear Jesus, I am smarter and wiser than you, and I really know what is best to do in my marriage, therefore I am not going to listen to you but I will do what I think best, and we will all be the better for it. You can take the back seat and I will take the lead.” Such a woman who tries to control or manipulate her husband is failing to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. She is creating a divide or chasm in her own marriage and pushing away the heart of her own husband. Not submitting to God’s good order in marriage, she is a selfish childish woman who doesn’t even deserve the blessing of a husband or children. Likewise let every husband know, God commands you to love and cherish your wife. A woman needs to be desired and loved, and she needs to know you love and desire her. As much as possible every husband should take the time to have quite time with his wife, by setting aside the other things in life which are not as important as wife. I know by these words I am going to make a lot of husbands and wives feel guilty, and I’m glad because we are guilty. These are true and real sins whereby we deserve damnation, but the good news is that these sins also, are the sins Jesus paid for on

the cross because “Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

II. Take My yoke upon you and “learn of me”. Thus if we are to please Christ and walk in the good path of His holy commandments, “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.” Note first Jesus said “I am meek and lowly in heart.” Though Jesus was Lord of all His disciples and all people, we don’t see Him behaving as Lord among men, for He took upon Himself the form of a servant. In a meek and quiet way Jesus served His own disciples, and He also submitted to the will of God the Father. This meekness of Christ was evident when Jesus as a child submitted to the will of Joseph and Mary. As an adult this same meekness was seen when He washed the feet of His own disciples. Likewise when Jesus was whipped for our sins, Jesus didn’t complain, but in meekness submitted Himself to the will of God for our sake. It is written that when he was reviled, He “reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.” That’s what meekness is. It is not just to be humble, but it is to humbly accept God’s will and judgements in our own life without complaint, committing ourselves “to him that judgeth righteously.”

Truly this is how we learn of Jesus who says “learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart”. Mothers and fathers, husbands and wives should not just believe in their justification by grace through faith alone and not works, but they should also meekly accept God’s judgments upon them in their own life. When God tests your faith and grants you suffering of any sort, Jesus says “learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Remember the cross Jesus bore for you was far greater, for it was a cross that brought Jesus death, but in so doing Jesus gave you life. Therefore you should accept “my yoke” Jesus says, so this particular cross which you suffer under now, is a cross Jesus Himself gave you. Therefore take it, and with all meekness accept it in faith, committing your body and soul to God’s keeping. And as you bear this cross remember Jesus said “learn of me”, therefore Jesus is now your divine teacher and you are in the school of the cross. Therefore let go of your reason and lean not on your own understand, and learn better to “fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” TRUST, dear Christian, is the key to bearing your cross. You must trust and believe by faith that God knows what He is doing, for He does know what He is doing! Pay attention then, listen, learn, and pray, for Jesus Himself is your Teacher.....“Learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart.” “Be not faithfulness but believing”.

III. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Our last point for the day is the easiest to make, namely Jesus said “my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Now it never seems that way when you are in the midst of your trials and tribulations, but God’s Words are always true. For example, do you think there is any soul in heaven right now that says to their fellow saint, “You know brother, when I was on earth God gave me a trial that was

just too much, too heavy for me!” Indeed no triumphant soul in heaven speaks that way! Thus it is only on earth that we think in such a fleshly manner, and the problem is we take too lightly the burden of our sins which Jesus placed upon His own back. If you remember for just a moment how great His burdens were, can’t you now say your own burdens are really very light? If then in weakness you feel your burdens are too heavy, please understand they are not. Even if God bundled all your future trials up together into one bundle and then placed them all on your back right now, these would be light as a feather compared to all your dear Jesus suffered and endured for you, so that all would be forgiven! Who then are we to complain or be bitter about our cross, when “Christ died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” Let us start living for Jesus, and stop living for ourselves. “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

Finally beloved of the Lord, understand this cross which Jesus has given you is His own special gift to you, for He says “My yoke” therefore it surely comes from Him. It is a gift of love which helps to save your soul. Likewise it is a high honor to carry such a cross for the sake of His name and Kingdom. Carry your cross then in faith and love to the glory of His name, and be sure and certain He will give you the strength to do so, for He hath said “My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” When we are weak He is still strong. Therefore dear mothers, through every trial and tribulation rejoice in the high honor and title God has given you, namely the title of mother. And if you are weary and need rest, remember always there is only one place you need to go to find perfect peace and rest. Go to Jesus in prayer and faith believing, “for I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” Soon enough our days of labor will end and we will enter into our eternal rest above. Therefore make good use of your time now, on earth, to God alone be glory, here in this world, and forever in the next. Amen.