

The Outcome

Series: The Invitation

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“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matt.11:28-30)

Thus far in our series we have considered the invitation itself in three parts:

- Come After Me (Follow)
- Take My Yoke
- Learn From Me

And we have understood the nature of the inviter:

- He is Meek
- He is Humble in Heart

And the nature of the invited:

- The weary
- The Heavy-laden

There has to be an outcome. What is the end game of this invitation? What is the point? What does it accomplish? Like it or not, there is usually a personal reason we accept an invitation. We believe that we will get something out of it.

Jesus often talked about rewards:

- Matt.6:1-4, When you give in secret God will reward you
- Matt.6:5-15, When you pray in secret God will reward you
- Matt.6:16-18, When you fast in secret God will reward you
- Matt.25:14-28, When you invest God will reward you by giving you more
- Matt.25:31-46, When you serve the least of these, you will receive an inheritance

Specifically in our text the outcome is “rest for your souls.”

The disciples who were following Jesus at that time were called to a place of rest in Mark 6:30-31, “The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’”

- Jesus experienced the events of life that simply left men tired.
- Jesus was sympathetic to the needs of His apostles

- Jesus knew there was a relationship between a place of quietness and rest

But some sought the wrong kind of “rest.” This was premature rest. This was not rest given. It was rest taken. Luke 12:16-21, 16 *And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ 18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ’ 20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life(soul) will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ 21 “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”*

Rest is Refreshment:

- 1 Cor.16:17-18, “I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.”
 - Lack of rest is a lack of supply. However, in the rest Jesus promises, there is no lack of supply.
 - Through others we often get a foretaste of rest and refreshment now.
- Philemon was a source of refreshment for Paul-He refreshed Paul’s heart (vss, 7 & 20)

Rest in Revelation

- Rev.6:11, “Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait (rest) a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.” For them rest was to be patient until their blood was avenged.
- Rev.14:13, “Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.’” The rest Jesus promises is rest from labor. Rest implies labor.

Rest in Hebrews

- When the Israelites left the land of Egypt where they toiled as slaves, God offered to give them rest in the Promised Land, rest from their enemies.
- However because of their unfaithfulness and disobedience some had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years and never entered His rest. “And to whom did God swear that they would never enter His rest if not those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.” (Heb.3:18-19)
- There is another “rest” for the people of God. “Therefore, since the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.” (4:1)

- This idea traces back to Creation when God rested on the 7th day-It is a Sabbath rest. (4:4)
- “For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.” (4:8-11)

There is something in each of us that longs for rest-the true rest of the soul. The day the curse of toilsome labor is reversed and the struggle is over and times of refreshment come from the Lord, and we all can enjoy labor that does not tire us, labor that has no harmful effect on us. Those who accept Jesus’ invitation can expect to find this REST.