

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

One Greater Than The Temple

Matthew 11:24-12:14

Last week:

- John the Baptist: Elijah, if you can accept it
- Kids that can be satisfied or entertained - rejecting God no matter what He does
- Better for Sodom & Gomorrah

Today:

- Rest

Ever take a long trip? Rest stops?

Tired of working? Retirement?

Lunchtime naps?

Siestas in other countries. Einsteins sleeping habits

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg [you] as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Life's a journey? Where are you headed?

As much as I like to make good time on a trip, we can't rush heaven. In fact, resting can be a taste of heaven.

Romans 8:23 NLT And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children,[fn] including the new bodies he has promised us.

The only way we're going to make it on our journey is if we stop to rest along the way.

[Pray]

11:25-27

Jesus was rejected by the cities He went to.

Now he prays.

1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing"

Their rejection revealed God had hidden these things from them.

That's not fair!

Calvinism/Arminianism argument, who chooses, us, or God?

Both!

Hidden from the "wise and prudent"

But were they really wise? No. They rejected God.

But they were wise in their own eyes.

*Statistics show that most people who complete college in our times become very liberal
They don't believe in God.*

*Is it because they are smarter? They've been enlightened to the real truth? Or because they've
been indoctrinated.*

1 Timothy 6:20-21 NKJV - O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane [and] idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge [science]-- by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace [be] with you. Amen.

We don't check our brains at the door. We actually use them. And when we use them to seek truth, we'll always end up at God.

God reveals His truth to the lowly. Why? Because they're willing to listen. Willing to consider. Willing to hear. Know that they don't know everything.

Former coworker shocked I was a Conservative Christian. Why? Because, in her words, I was so smart.

Here's a tough pill to swallow:

**Jesus says that the truth of God being hidden from them...
seems good from God's perspective.**

We're going to see more of that with the upcoming parables. It's their very purpose.
(Matthew 13:10-11)

:28-30

...all you who labor and are heavy laden

Labor

to grow weary, tired, exhausted (with toil or burdens or grief)
 to labour with wearisome effort, to toil
 of bodily labour

Grief, stress, has a way of being visible on us

Friend pointed out how the people in government look after a few years - and some look far worse because of the evil they've done

Heavy Laden

to place a burden upon, to load
 metaph. to load one with a burden (of rites and unwarranted precepts)

Guilt trip, things you can't bear
 "Catholic guilt"

Trying to please someone else who is unpleasable, unobtainable objectives

Pharisees saying they were righteous - in perfection. "Elaborate do's and do not's"

Obeying the law is laborsome.

2 Timothy 3:6 NKJV - For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,

Sin wears us out.

Grief wears us out.

Never being able to get ahead...

Never being able to see a way out...

To you...Jesus says, Come to Me

When we're burdened...

Where do we go?

When we can't sleep? When we're stressed? When we're hopeless?

The bottle? The drug? The affection of someone? The sin?

Do we just zone out? Run away?

Jesus says, Come to Me

What do we get when we do? Rest.

**Not just sleep for our tired bodies and minds
But rest for our souls.**

Triune beings (in the image of God - body, mind/emotions, and spirit)

Spirit dead from sin until we're born again

We're wearied from carrying around that burden of sin and death

When our hope is in this life - and the thing we hoped for becomes unattainable

But the things of heaven are the things we're to live for - and they are freely given.

Take my yoke upon you

Yoke, oxen

2 Cor 6:14 "Do not be unequally yoked..."

Marriage, relationships, spiritual pursuits

Being unequally yoked wears us out - dragged in different directions

Tug of war, Trucks chaining up

We need to be yoked to Jesus. To go in the direction he has for us.

The direction he has for us is always begins and ends in rest.

The Sabbath

(6 days God created, 7th he rested)

Yoked...and learn

Gentle and lowly in heart. He knows us! That we're "but dust"

He won't burden you, like the religious will

Sanctification - peeling back the layers, focusing on the thing that is most pressing. Giving the strength to overcome by the Spirit.

His yoke is easy and burden light

To Work not to be saved - that is a burden

To Work because we are saved - that is a joy

To obey God is actually easy. To deny the flesh is the hard part.

And the things God tells us to do...are always for our good.
They always benefit us.

The work is lighter when there's a reward. The week is bearable when there's a weekend coming.

12:1-8

Plucking grain from the wheat

Rub it in your hands, chew it, sort of gummy

Groceries - pasta box breaks, Sierra starts eating it

Pharisees see it...HOW?! They're always lurking! Looking on! Looking for something to criticize!

Some of this so-called "discernment" ministries are just criticism

There's a jealousy of the freedom in Jesus (not to be unholy, but to be at rest!)

Why are they in the wheat field? A shortcut? By what Jesus says to the Pharisees, and knowing they didn't have a lot...maybe he took them there on purpose for a free snack. We'll see later they were heading to synagogue on the Sabbath.

There was a customary provision for the poor to go behind the harvesters and gather the leftovers. Workfare.

Jesus says to them..TWICE..."have you not read?"

This rebuke to those who were supposed to be experts in the scriptures...have you not even just read the Bible guys?

There's a lot of religious folks out there, some under the banner of Christianity, and I wonder the same thing, haven't they even read the thing?

Again, what I love about verse-by-verse expository teaching...you can't miss something. You can't skip something. And when you do read something, it's in context!

David goes into the temple and eats the showbread!

It was an urgent need to feed his men.

Showbread - bread of the presence - 12 unleavened loaves of fine flour, two rows on a

golden table

It was a sign of God's presence and provision

What do you think God cares about more? The lives of his people?

Or that there's some bread that'll go stale on the table that will go to waste.

In a sense, was it not there, to be a "break glass in case of emergency" loaf? As Jesus said about Elijah, "if you can accept it?"

The priests...by doing the work of the temple on the Sabbath, which needed to be done, weren't guilty of breaking the sabbath command.

The sabbath command was superseded by the call to worship and serve.

Jesus then points out to them...that the temple is just a building, made with human hands...pointing to something greater coming. Something right in front of them. Jesus.

1 Cor 6:19 "...your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you..."

Jesus was greater than the temple because he was the very presence of God - in a body. Not just the glory of God in a room in a building inaccessible to most.

But out to be seen and heard and touched by everyone.

They had read the scriptures...but they had no idea what God actually wanted or Who He really was.

Their worship of the law, in misunderstanding of it, led them to condemn those who had done no wrong.

Lord...even of the Sabbath.

Sabbath a big deal for them. Everyone was subject to it under the law. Doing all sorts of works to get by without breaking it.

- *Hasidic Jews in Upstate NY...ropes on their houses, asking Gentiles (Goyims) to do things for them. Special Sabbath elevator service.*

- *Growing up - North Jersey Blue laws. Aisles in CVS roped off on Sundays.*
- *Daniel Tiger - when you're sick, rest is best.*

In Mark's account...Mark 2:27 NKJV - And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.

**The whole point of the Day of Rest...the Sabbath. Was to give rest!
God knows we get tired! God knows work is hard! Especially because of the fall and sin.**

And not just for a Sunday nap, but to find rest for our souls!

To go and worship God! To put down the shovel. Put down the spreadsheet. To close the shop you run and go sit, worship, be fed the word of God, and fellowship with Him and your brothers and sisters in Christ!

And Jesus is the Lord of that Rest.

Psalm 127:2 NKJV - [It is] vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; [For] so He gives His beloved sleep.

Looking for work, staying up finishing my portfolio...

Psalm 23:1-3b The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul;

Hebrews 4:3 For we who have believed do enter that rest

- *Creation, the garden - a time of rest in the evening, walks with Jesus*
- *Broken by the fall*
- *Heaven - Paradise, the river - our Father's joy...rest*

Sleep deprivation, used in torture. Soldiers trained to work through it, but can only go so far. Hallucinations. Confusion. People have even died from a lack of rest.

If you're tired. Rest. It's not weakness or laziness *just* to nap or take a day off. 1 day a week. If you're burdened. If you need to heal spiritually...rest in Jesus. Don't feel pressured to do anything at church. Just come at rest. Come and receive. Come and worship.

Then, when you're rested. Get up, and go, and serve God. People are so burnt out because they don't rest. It's a huge problem in the church.

:9-14

He went into their synagogue! I love it. They're out condemning Him and his disciples. But they go to synagogue

DGC we see that Jesus, as a faithful Jewish man, continued to go to synagogue normally. We might say that Jesus was a faithful church-going man, even when He had reason not to be.

This poor man with the hand

The Pharisees have zero compassion. They use him as an example, bringing attention to his embarrassing handicap...just to try and attack Jesus.

And they do so with probably a very deep desire of the man...to be healed.

Imagine that's you or me...what we'd feel...

Jesus points right back at them, and their possessions - sheep. You'd get it out.

The sink breaks on a Sunday, you'd fix it, right? Your car gets a flat tire on the way home?

Jesus shows the man his worth.

And reveals what God really values: people.

The Sabbath was to be a blessing. Not a burden.

Definitely not a limitation on loving others.

The difference between rules and relationship:

Rules says "I don't get to. I can't." and condemns others.

Relationship says "I don't have to. I get to do this!"

When you come to God, which do you feel? (yes, discipline is required to go when we don't feel like it) **but when we do, do we come away refreshed or burdened?**

I hope that you walk away from worship, communion, the message and fellowship today refreshed!

What was their response? Relief? Wow?! Amazement? Rest?

No, they plotted to destroy him. What commands were they breaking in their plans?

Both the proud, "wise", religious and not...rejected God when he was right in front of them.

When all God wanted to do was give them rest.

From burdens. From sin. From life apart from Him.

The rest that can only be found in Jesus. He says... Come to Me...