



Nov. 1 - Rev. Owen Tarantino

Matthew 11:25-29

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Christ Calls Us to Gospel Rest

- How do we view rest?
- In what ways do we need true rest or Shalom in our life?

Jesus Invites Us to Walk with Him:

Follow Me: Turn to Christ

(see Matt. 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.)

Finding rest begins with turning away from whatever we trust more than Christ and turning toward Him in faith.

- What did Matthew have to leave behind to follow Jesus? What might have made that difficult?
- What are we tempted to depend upon for our security, identity, or satisfaction instead of Christ?
- Why do we struggle to surrender control and follow Jesus wholeheartedly?
- How does knowing who Jesus is—His authority, mercy, and grace—give us confidence to follow Him?

Come to Me: Find Your Rest in Christ

Matt. 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Our deepest burden is our sin and alienation from God. Yet Jesus also invites us to trust Him amid the anxieties, fears, disappointments, and responsibilities of everyday life.

- What burdens are we carrying today—guilt, fear, anxiety, expectations, or the need to control?
- Why do we often try to solve our problems independently before turning to Christ?
- What does it practically mean to bring our burdens to Jesus? How do prayer, repentance, and trusting His promises help us?



- What kind of rest does Jesus promise? What does He not promise?

Learn from Me: Grow in Grace

Matt. 11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Jesus does not call us to a life without responsibility. He calls us into a new relationship where we live under His gracious lordship.

- What do Jesus' gentleness and humility teach us about His relationship with us?
- What is Christ teaching us through our present struggles, responsibilities, and relationships?
- How can we become more intentional about learning from Christ through Scripture, prayer, worship, and fellowship?



October 25th- Rev Hugh Barlett

Matthew 9:35–38 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Matthew 10:1–15 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹ Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Christ calls us to proclaim His Kingdom

- Prayer prepares us for Partnership
- Christ’s Authority empowers us
- Teamwork makes the dream work
- Kingdom declaration & demonstration
- Faithful & Fruitful in mission

How does prayer prepare for partnership in Christ’s mission? There is more than one way that this is true!

How is this mission a preparation for Israel to be a light to the nations as was promised in OT? How is this an initiation of God’s judgement on Israel for rejecting Jesus?

The apostolic team reflects the Trinitarian family, the 12 tribes of Israel, and the Church with many members. How have you seen the diversity of team work in unity to accomplish something?

How is the gospel both words and deeds? Then? Now?



*How do we balance faithfulness and fruitfulness in the work we do? When do keep going?
When do we move on?*