

# **The Invitation of Jesus**

## **Matthew 11:28-30**

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Matthew has recorded several examples of rejection.

- John the Baptist is in prison (**11:1-15**)
- Jesus rejected by religious leaders (**11:16-19**)
- Chorazin and Capernaum – (**11:20-24**)

Yet, Jesus thanks the Father that salvation has been made available to all, including the marginalized.

## **Matthew 11:28-30**

He then offers a well-known invitation – our text.

Today, I want to analyze this invitation.

- This morning, we will examine some elements of this invitation
- Tonight, we will examine why some reject it.

# Our Savior Who Invites Us

- Jesus is speaking and inviting.

**Hebrews 1:1-2**

- He is the only one through whom we find spiritual hope – **John 14:6, Acts 4:12**

# Our Savior Who Invites Us

- Jesus is:
  - the Good Shepherd – **John 10:11**
  - head of the body – **Ephesians 1:22-23**
  - the cornerstone – **Ephesians 2:20**
  - our King – **1 Timothy 6:15**
- Thus He invites us to...
  - join His flock
  - become part of His body (the church)
  - become a living stone in His building
  - citizenship in His benevolent kingdom

# The invitation implies man is away from Him

- Sin separates us from God – **Isaiah 59:2**

**Ezekiel 18:4**

- In NT, we are reminded we are sinners – **Romans 3:23**

NOTE: This does NOT say we HAVE TO sin but will sin.

- Our former state – **Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12**

# The invitation implies man is away from Him

- We are not born sinners – **Ezekiel 18:20,**  
**cf. Matthew 18:2-4**
- Why must we repent first?  
Because we are guilty of our sins
- Because we are away from Him, He invites us

# The invitation – He wants us to come to Him

- **John 7:37** – If anyone thirsts, let him come
- **John 12:46** – I have come... whoever believes should not abide in darkness
- **John 3:16, Romans 5:8** – available to everyone
- **1 Timothy 2:4** – He desires that all be saved
- However, He will not force anyone to come to Him



## The invitation – ALL are invited

- The corrupt Jewish leaders rejected many. Jesus appealed to the reject, and anyone willing to repent.
- **Titus 2:11** – God’s grace has appeared to all men
- **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – He died for all
- The “great commission” was to “all the world”  
**Luke 24:46-47, Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20**

# The invitation – ALL are invited

- John introduced Jesus as:
  - The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world **John 1:29**
  - the bread of God - **John 6:33**
- **Revelation 22:17** – whoever desires...

# The invitation – All CAN come to Him

- God's plan IS workable:
  - He has not teased us with the impossible
  - He has not created a plan that only a select few can do
- **John 1:11-12** – while rejected by “His own”, “as many as received Him, He gave the right to become children of God.”

# The invitation – All CAN come to Him

- My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.
- Easy compared to the alternative.
- While not always easy to complete, it IS doable if one has a genuine desire
  - obey the gospel and observe all things commanded –  
**Matthew 28:19-20**
  - As believers – **1 John 1:7-9, 2:1-2** – even when we sin
- Those who do not accept His invitation CHOOSE to do so!

# The invitation – It is up to me to accept

- “I’m inviting you, now come!”
- He has done His part, will we accept it and do our part?
- **Revelation 3:20** – He knocks, will we open?
- **John 10:9** – He is the door, will we enter the fold?
- **John 6:66** – after “hard sayings” many walked with Him no more. He did not stop them from leaving
- **Luke 15:11-32** – it was up to the prodigal to “come to himself” to return

# The invitation – What happens when I accept?

- *You will find rest for your soul*
- Far too many today live without hope (**cf. Eph. 2:12**).  
Our world is filled with brokenness.
- When one obeys the gospel with understanding, there is great relief **Romans 6:3-4,**  
**2 Corinthians 5:17**
  - when one returns – **James 5:19-20**, a burden is lifted
- Direction as we deal with struggles

# The invitation – What happens when I accept?

- *Eternal life*
- The ultimate gift – **2 Corinthians 5:1-5**,  
**Romans 2:7** – we seek glory, honor and immortality
- Far too many live as if this life is all there is. No real hope. we deal with struggles

# The invitation – What happens when I accept?

- *I am joined to Him and His family*
- **Galatians 3:27** – I put on Christ
- A spiritual family – **Galatians 6:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:10, Romans 12:10, 15, etc.**
- When the world lets us down, our spiritual family will lift us up.



**Jesus offers  
His invitation  
freely...**

**Will you  
accept it?**

Let us pray!