

**The Invitation of Jesus -2**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

**Why Some Reject His Invitation**

## Matthew 11:28-30

This morning, we examined this invitation of Jesus

- He is the one inviting us
- We NEED this invitation – because of sin
- God WANTS us to accept it
- It is available to ALL
- It is ACHIEVABLE – all can do what is required
- It is up to ME to accept it
- What it means – rest, eternal life, help being your burden

## Matthew 11:28-30

Tonight, we address why some reject His invitation

- Considering what is at stake, why do more not accept it?
- But true believers have always been in the minority – even Pentecost (**Acts 2:41**)
- Many saw the works of Jesus and still rejected Him
- Rejection led to His crucifixion

## Matthew 11:28-30

Today is no different as anyone who has tried to share the gospel with others knows.

- The majority will show little or no interest
- Some are even hostile to the faith
- Others, obey the gospel at first, but shortly thereafter they walk away

**Why does this occur?**

# An unwillingness to give up the world

- **1 John 2:15-17**
- Too many love their worldly lifestyles - money, activities, power, relationships, lusts, entertainment, addictions, etc.
- **Matthew 19:22-24** – the rich, young ruler
- **Luke 9:57-62** – excuses offered
- **Colossians 3:5** – covetousness is idolatry  
ANYTHING that stands opposed to putting God first –  
**cf. Galatians 2:20**

# An unwillingness to take up his cross

- For many, it is what one is called upon to do in obedience.
- **Romans 6:23, 3:23-24** – the free gift of salvation
- Comes at a high cost! Everything!  
**Luke 9:23-26, 14:26-33**
- He must be Lord – **Galatians 2:20,**  
**Romans 12:1-2**

# An unwillingness to take up his cross

- Many DO understand what is expected.
- **John 6:66** – after hard sayings, many walked with Him no more – why? See **vs. 26**
- Felix put it off – **Acts 24:25**. There is no indication he ever returned.

# Because of what they see among “Christians”

- Many see hypocrisy, half-hearted worship & service, lack of compassion, division, false gospels, worldliness, corrupt immoral behavior, etc.
- Politics – it divides us and has NO place in the church! **E.g., Matthew 22:15-22** – Jesus made the distinction!  
(Note: This is not ignoring moral issues)



# Because of what they see among “Christians”

- Thought: Were many of the “common” Jews put off by the corruption of their leaders?
- Why did so many turn to Jesus? **Mark 12:37**, *And the common people heard Him gladly.*
- **Luke 15:1** – tax collectors and sinners drew near to hear Him
- Religious leaders, rebuked and condemned them – **Luke 15:2, E.g., 13:14, 18:9** – trusted in themselves and despised others
  - **John 7:49** – the crowd is accursed
- **Cf. 1 Samuel 2:17** – Eli’s corrupt priestly sons

# Because of what they see among “Christians”

- NEVER underestimate the power of a godly example!
- **Matthew 5:16** – let them see your good works and glorify God
- **1 Corinthians 9:22** – Paul became *all things to all men that I might by all means save some.*
- We ARE “The World’s Bible”

# Because they do not know about Him

- How can one respond if they do not know there is an invitation?
- Most have heard of Jesus, but few really know who He is. Much information is gained by “sound bytes”, and often untrue. Our faith has been villainized.
- **Luke 24:46-47, Mark 16:15-16, 1 Peter 3:15** - we are called upon to take the gospel to others
- People need to see Christ living in us –  
**Galatians 2:20**

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# Because they do not know about Him

- People need to see Christ living in us –  
**Galatians 2:20**
- If we have opportunity, are we willing to share His message with them? OR lead them to someone who can teach them?
- Many will NOT accept His invitation, no matter what we say or do - **Luke 8:4-15**  
BUT, we must try. Some are searching!

## Numerous excuses/reasons:

- Everyone is different. For one reason or another, they dismiss the invitation. Some say...
- I am too sinful or unworthy
- I am good enough and don't need the gospel
- I cannot live the life expected of me
- I am too old/young, etc.
- Family ties – I am satisfied with the faith of my parents
- I don't know enough
- Not right now

## Numerous excuses/reasons:

- Each of these excuses has an answer
- I am too sinful or unworthy – **Romans 6:23**
- I am good enough and don't need the gospel – **Romans 3:23**
- I cannot live the life expected of me – **1 John 2:1-2**
- I am too old/young, etc. – **John 3:16**
- Family ties – I am satisfied with the faith of my parents – **Matthew 10:34-39, etc.**
- I don't know enough – **Matthew 28:19-20**
- Not right now – **James 4:14**

## Numerous excuses/reasons:

- **Romans 10:9-10** – It is with the heart that we believe unto righteousness
- **Luke 14:15-24** - the parable of the great supper. Those who made excuses were excluded.



## Some walk away later

- Some initially accept the invitation, but when troubles come, they quit.
- **Luke 8:6-7, 13-14** - the Parable of the Sower/soils.
- Always know that we can fall away – **2 Peter 2:20-22, Galatians 5:4, Hebrews 2:1-3, 4:11, 10:38, etc.**
- When the invitation is accepted, it is for life!  
**Revelation 2:10**

# When the invitation is rejected:

He forfeits the rest Jesus offered

- Rest is an appealing aspect of our reward
- **Revelation 14:13, Hebrews 4:9-10**
- But Jesus also offered rest from the burden of sin –  
**Romans 5:20-21** – His grace truly is greater
- **Philippians 4:6-7** – the peace of God guards the heart (even in this life)
- The godless do not have this hope  
– **Ephesians 2:12, 4:17-18**

# When the invitation is rejected:

He forfeits eternal life

- **Romans 6:23** – the wages of sin is death – including eternal separation from God.
- **Hebrews 4:9, Romans 2:7** – eternal life awaits the godly
- **Matthew 25:46, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 20:15** – eternal destruction awaits those who do not obey the gospel

## When the invitation is rejected:

He walks away from a spiritual support system

- Jesus, in His invitation promised to be with us.

**Matthew 28:20**

- **Ephesians 1:3ff** – many blessings found in Him
- To reject the invitation is to reject these blessings

## When the invitation is rejected:

He alienates himself from God's people

- Part of the “rest” Jesus promised, and a lighter “yoke” and burden.
- The church is a great spiritual blessing in this life -  
**Ephesians 1:22-23**
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** – like a functioning body, we are there for one another.
- **Ephesians 4:16, Romans 10:10-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:14**

## When the invitation is rejected:

He alienates himself from God's people

- When one rejects the invitation, or walks away from it, he forfeits this blessing.
- **1 Corinthians 5:4-5, 2 Thessalonians 3:6** – we are called upon to withdraw from anyone walking disorderly (to keep the body pure).

**Sadly, many  
will reject the  
invitation of  
Jesus today...**

**Will you  
accept it?**

Let us pray!