

Rest for the Weary

- Today J: **Come, w/b**. Have to admit: lately I do feel w/b; fatgd, ovrwhlmd, exhstd, w/b. My hunch/susptn: you too. Just think all diffclt, defltng chalngs we as nation/comnty faced over last sev mos. Multpl hurcns slamng gulf coast; devastng wldfrs rvngng thru W; nation hotly divdd over matters poltcs/justc; unrest in strsr/hrts. And then there's virus: stay home orders, cancl'd school, lost hrs, lost incm, hlth concerns (COVID related or othrws); quarntns, lonlnss, isoltn, never endng frstrtn. In whtvr way this diffclt 2020 has persnly affected you, I think we all have felt or are feeling w/b.
- Know smthg: J felt w/b too. In vss right before, ppl actly calling J glutton/drnkrd simply for minstrng to sinners. Ppl in towns where perfmd many mircls not repntng/belvng in him; so J speaks very harshly against them for sin/unbelf. All along, knows what lies in future: trrble suff/death at hands Roms. So when J talks re feeling w/b, he knows what that's like.
- Uses pic of yoke. **Take my yoke upon you**. Know what yoke? Farming tool – prob today replcd by trctr. Before trctr, farmers put woodn crssbeam over neck/shldrs oxen (that's yoke); connected to plow behind them. Oxen'd push forward w/all strngth vs yoke to pull plow, till field. I'm sure hard work, hvy burdn on shlders. To use another pic, think carryng great big hvy bckpck, filled w/hvy supplies, weighng down on shlders – it's hard carry, exhstng, a yoke that leaves you w/b.
- To all us, struglng make it thru 2020, w/all unique, unforeseen chlngs, today J, to you/me: **vs. 28**. J gives RW. I think this one most beautfl psgs in all Scrptr. This really: invitnt from J; invtng us let him take that yoke, hvy bckpck/burdns, off our shlders, and gives us some much needed rest! **Vs. 28**.
- I bet you know what like to need rest? Smtms just need sleep (trbl to fight sleep when eyes just can't stay open 1 more min). Smtms just need sit down, take break from work (when don't have 1 oz enrgy left in you). Smtms need vaca (got get away, see some scenery, have some fun). We all need rest! And God: one who inventd rest! After 6 days creatn, restd on 7th; called it Sab Day (word means rest). And then God commndd his ppl, on Sab, take break, get rest: phys rest from labor (yes), but also time spent in GW/worship (sprtl rest). And even though those spcfc OT laws no longer apply us today in NT, God still wants us find rest: for bodies & souls. **Ps 62: "Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvtn comes from him. Yes, my soul, find rest in God. Truly he is my rock and my salvtn" (1,5,6)**. And here J: **vs. 29ac** – sprtl rest!
- When you feelng w/b, dump burdns on J. That's what invts/wants you do, so can find true sprtl rest. And can be burdns of: life/2020; within hshld/hrtr; of soul: our sin/guilt. Could be burdn of recgnzng that perhaps poisons/divsv culture in which live has (time/time) gotten best/us, brought out worst/us – caused us speak/think/act as citizen of world, not as citizen/hvn, child/God. If you're weary that 2020's brought out your worst, or if burdnd by the worst that 2020 has brought to you, then dump burdns on J! **Vs. 28**. J has already taken that heaviest bckpck sin/guilt off your shlders, & thrown his shlders; he's carried to cross, & crucfd it there; he's unlatchd you from that yoke crushng you down, & forgvn you! And now he proms hear/answr prayers acc his wisdom, & strngthn/sprpt you in diffclt days. And prmsd you best rest: eternal rest, from all burdns/life – rest w/J forever in hvn. J gives RW.
- J actly says that he takes off our old yoke, replaces w/new yoke, his. **Vs. 29a, 30**. What is J's yoke, why we want wear it? You could think this yoke of J as yoke of discplshp. It's a good thing! It's follwng/belvng in J as his disc. When hear word disc, often think: Pt, Jms, Jn. But word disc means student/tr, someone who learns from instrctr. So as bels/follwrs/J, we are his discs/students; J wants us learn from him. **Vs. 29a**. So wearing this yoke/discplshp means sitting at J's feet, in his classrm, in his Wd, devourng J's Wd, hngng on evthng he says – bec J's Word (Gos) what gives us sprtl rest. Means: coming church, making that top priority; or, if can't come into physcl church buildng, then watchng online service videos as part reglr wkly routine, not letting slip. Dscplshp means Bible class, studying Wd, sharing Wd w/fam, priortzng Wd, within home. That's dscplshp; what blessing/privldg it is: be disc of J, wear that yoke, learn from him. **Vs. 29a,b**. Nowhere that more evidnt than at cross. **"Like lamb before its shearers is silent" (Isa)**, J willingly, w/o resistance allowed self suffer trrble

evil at hand/men, in order redeem us. J humbly submtd to Fr's will, out of unfthmbl love for you/me. And that's what wants you know/learn – bec more you know/bel this, the more **vs. 29c**.

- But not everybody gets it. At begnng psg, J: **vs. 25-26**. Wise/learned ppl too smart for J; know better than he does; so don't need: repent, pray, learn, turn, trust, bel – bec don't need a Sav; self-sufficient. Little children on other hand (which here, by way, nothing to do w/age) realize not self-sufficient, do need J. Trust in J w/ childlike faith (humble, honest, sincere, unquestnng); they undrstnd kngdm/God, bec God reveals it to them thru HS! You/I are these little children, no matter how old, what age is – if we trust in J w/childlike faith. **“Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of hvn” (Mt 18:3)**. J loves call Xians lowly ppl – like in Beattds; blessed: poor in spirit, meek, merciful. Here: we are the little children.
- And that's smthng we really need take to hrt! We have Father who loves us, brother who died/rose for us, who never stops taking care us. We need learn to truly trust in J (w/simple, humble, confident, childlike faith), no matter challenges we face, troubles we see around us – a faith that says, “Even in 2020, I still have J, so evthng's going be OK.” After all, my J still says: “Come to me, when...”
 - ⇒ Feel scared re this virus, concerned re your life/health
 - ⇒ Feel frstrtd with this pandmc wrld, where evthng turned ups/down, nothing way suppsd be
 - ⇒ Feel all alone, lonely, like fam/friends and the fun of camaraderie has just seemed vanish
 - ⇒ Feel not only socially distncd but also emotnly distncd from ppl who don't share your views on politics; and smtms seems: tensions all-time high, patience/kindness all-time low
 - ⇒ Job overwhelming you; or can't find work
 - ⇒ Finances mess; or schedule out of control
 - ⇒ Kids driving crazy; or spat with spouse
 - ⇒ Friend or loved one is dying, and you don't know what do about it
 - ⇒ So discouraged by all negativity around you
 - ⇒ Ashamed of letting Satan get best/you, and COVID bring out worst/you
- Whatever heavy bckpck you're carrying, whatever burdnsome yoke you're bearing, today J: **vs. 28**. I forgive you, I love you, I am w/you, I care re you, I have saved you, I will guide you, I will never leave you, I will always be there for you. Want proof? Look: at cross, empty tomb, baptsml cert. I am committed to you. **Vs. 29**. Feel w/b? Need some rest? J gives rest for weary. Find your rest in him.

Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”