



Sunday, February 21, 2021  
Pastor Don Denyes

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

Author Dane Ortlund has pointed out in his recent book *Gentle and Lowly*, that the only instance of Christ talking about His own heart in the entire Bible is found in this passage in Matthew 11. The remarkable thing, given that this is the only instance of that, is His description that He is gentle and lowly in heart.

There is so much to be said about God and about His incarnate Son—so much, in fact, that it would seem the whole world could not contain the books that would be written about Him. And yet, in the simplest, most direct way, Jesus highlights that He is gentle and lowly, humble and meek, easy to follow.

As Pastor Don explained in the sermon, in a culture that is progressing toward a rejection of all forms of authority, it is crucial that we keep in focus the truth that true freedom is not found in the rejection of authority, but in taking on the right forms of authority that enable us to flourish. That is Jesus. He is our Creator and Savior and Sustainer and the One who knows the form and function of our design. When we look to Him, we find rest for our souls.

### **Context**

The immediate context of this passage is paradoxical. The sermon text presents a wide-open invitation to any and all to come to Jesus. Just before this, however, Jesus makes it clear that the only people who will come to Him are those that the Father reveals the truth about Jesus to. This is a great comfort to us—a means of finding rest. It's unfortunate that the doctrine of election has found itself primarily at the center of theological debates and not where it belongs—as a sweet comfort for weary souls. That in fact, Jesus turns no one away who comes to Him sincerely, because He is the One drawing us to Himself. How great it is to know that He brought us to Himself and will see us through to the end!

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Matthew 11:28-30

Invitation: Come to Me

- People described
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Compensation offered

Invitation: Take My Yoke

- Meaning of yoke
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Learn of/from Me
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Motive given
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Compensation offered

His yoke is perfect freedom

## **Discuss**

- 1) How would you describe the experience of spiritual rest?
- 2) As you think about the people in your life who don't know Christ, what do you think is their greatest obstacle to coming to Him?
- 3) What are some common misconceptions of freedom in our culture?
- 4) Read John 8:31-36. How does Jesus present the idea of slavery and freedom in that passage?
- 5) What disciplines are essential to taking Christ's yoke upon us? And how are you doing in those disciplines?