

Come, Take and Learn

Dec 30, 2012

Mat 11:12-30

Summary of Context

- **first** he tells them the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and there are men who are pressing in
 - v12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and **violent people have been raiding it.** [Luk 16:16 every man **presseth** into it]
- **second** he calls to their attention to those that have been unresponsive, full of excuses and unrepentant
 - v 13 - 17 **lack of responsiveness**
 - v 18 - 19 **excuses for not following**
 - v 20 - 24 **refusal to repent at the miracles of Jesus**
- **third** He gives them what seems to be the contrast to the unresponsive and provides the basis of what it means to **press in.**

COME to me, TAKE my yoke and LEARN of me

Matt 11:28-30 "**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."

Come To Me

"Come" is the same Greek word as "**follow**" in Matt 4:19. Come, **follow** me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

- This is a word of **personal invitation** - and requires a response
- "Come - Follow" - has the idea of an **ongoing coming or following**
- It has the idea that you are **coming for a purpose** - not just moving geographically from one place to another
- You are stepping across a line where **there is a risk**
 - LAY DOWN YOUR NETS

We all get there by an invitation --- the interested, the curious, the excited, the doubting. and in Matt 11, the weary and burdened

Joh 1:35-46 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" 37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" 39 "**Come,**" **he replied, "and you will see."** So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. 40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was

one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (**that is, the Christ**). 42 **And he brought him to Jesus**. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). 43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "**Follow me.**" 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "**Come and see,**" said Philip.

Come To Me

As a Christian, our highest calling is to follow Christ

The call is to a relationship - ***COME TO ME*** - not a religion, a church, a program, or a particular flavor of theology - it is a call to HIM - and that alone.

Jesus told Peter - FOLLOW ME - then he re-emphasized it

Joh 21:18-23 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "**Follow me!**" 20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "**Lord, what about him?**" 22 **Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must *follow me.*"** 23 Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

Joh 10:27 ***My sheep*** listen to ***my voice***; I know them, and ***they follow me.***

Take (pick up) My Yoke

Isn't it odd that the answer for the weary and burdened is to take up a yoke?

To take His yoke - is to submit ourselves and to set our heart to serve him

- Jeremiah 2:19-21 Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the LORD your God and have no awe of me," declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty. (20) "**Long ago you broke off your yoke and tore off your bonds; you said, 'I will not serve you!' Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree you lay down as a prostitute.** (21) I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?

To take His yoke - is to walk in the freedom of Christ not under law

- Galatians 5:1-4 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again **by a yoke of slavery**. (2) Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. (3) Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. (4) You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.
- Acts 15:5 & 10 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "**The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.**" ... (10) Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles **a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?**

To take His yoke is to remove the idols from our lives

- Numbers 25:1-3 While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, (2) who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. (3) So **Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them.**

His Yoke is a yoke of honesty, truth, a desire to know the way of the LORD, the requirements of God...

- Jeremiah 5:1-5 "Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person **who deals honestly and seeks the truth**, I will forgive this city. (2) Although they say, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' still they are swearing falsely." (3) LORD, do not your eyes look for truth? You struck them, but they felt no pain; you crushed them, but they refused correction. They made their faces harder than stone and refused to repent. (4) I thought, "These are only the poor; they are foolish, for **they do not know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God**. (5) So I will go to the leaders and speak to them; surely they know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God." **But with one accord they too had broken off the yoke** and torn off the bonds.

Learn of Me

“Learn” is manthano, the verb form from which mathetes, “disciple,” comes from. It means “to learn appropriate to oneself, less through instruction than through experience or practice.”

“Manthano” is learning by experience and learning by doing

- Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: **for I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
- 1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them **learn** first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

Learning Christ affects how we live

Ephesians 4:17-24 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, (18) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: (19) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (20) **But ye have not so learned Christ; (21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:** (22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Don't be afraid to Come, Take and Learn

- He is Meek and Lowly - He is not an evil taskmaster
- His yoke is easy
 - **“Easy”** - means “useful, manageable, serviceable, that which fills a need and is well fitting.” In other words, it is designed to fit our needs; it is tailor-made.
- His burden is light
 - **“Light”** - light in weight, agile, not burdensome, or overbearing

Action:

He is calling us to live as disciples...this is what we are by virtue of our salvation. I am bringing some definition to it today.

Come - Is He calling you? to come? To come to HIM? - Or to invite others to come?

Take - Maybe you have thrown off the yoke...and it is time to pick it back up

Learn - this is a lifetime - I will be a learner - a student till the day I die...I am learning and becoming like the master as he teaches me... Is this where your heart is today?