

**Sunday 17th September 2023**

**OUR NEW SHORT SERIES**

**WALKING WITH JESUS PART 1.**

Our theme today

Finding our **'TRUE SPIRITUAL REST'**

Matthew 11:28-30

- In Matthew 11, Jesus said that, ... “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.”

- *(Matthew 11:28-30 NIV).*



# Introduction

Rest can mean different things to different people.

- For some, rest is when family and friends will be giving tributes when you're not listening.

- Those who walked with Jesus very closely during His time of ministry here on earth, expected different kind of 'REST' from what Jesus was offering.

**Today we will focus on these three areas.**

- 1) What were they expecting?
- 2) What did Jesus offer them?
- 3) And what kind of REST are we expecting today?



Jesus did not go around announcing that ‘I am the Messiah’, in fact He forbade the demons He had cast out of those possessed to confess that He was the Christ.

*... “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.*

*(Luke 4:41)*

And when Peter—in reply to Jesus' direct question "Who do you say that I am? Peter responded that you are the Messiah, Jesus strictly commanded the disciples to tell no one that He was the Messiah (*Matthew 16:15-20*). Why?

Different people had different expectations from the messiah.



## For example, In Matthew 11.

- When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” (*Matthew 11:2-3*).
- This is the same John in other passages like John 1:29-36 clearly states that Jesus is the Messiah

- Then how can we explain his present doubt? Could it be that John himself had misunderstood the ministry of the Messiah, or perhaps he thought that if Jesus were really the Messiah, He would perform works connected with a political deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Romans, or at least deliver him from prison?



We can see clearly that many of those who walked with Jesus had different expectations from what he was offering.

- Jesus answered the question of the imprisoned John the Baptist (*"Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"*) by directing him to the proofs of His messianic claims—His teachings and His works (*Matthew 11:2-6*).



- It is possible that John made a mistaken distinction between the Coming One and Christ, the Messiah.
- We make the same mistakes, especially when we start to feel tired, or our expectations are not met.

# **1. We find our true REST, when we allow the Lord to take charge.**

a) Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me.

... Remember that this nation is your people.” The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you Rest.”  
*(Exodus 33:12-14).*

Moses wanted the Lord to be in charge.



- b) While John was in Prison, some of his disciples kept going back to him for support and spiritual counsel, no wonder we see him sending them back to confirm; “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”
- c) God wants us to allow Him to take charge.

## **2. Our True rest is the revelation of the Son God.**

a) 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. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. (Matthew 11:25-26).

b) Friends we should not tire, Apostle Paul said this;

“ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. (Philippians 3:10)



c) I don't think anyone can claim now that they fully understand Jesus, but as we walk with Him, we experience his revelation.

### **3. Our True REST will be Eternal life.**

a) “Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.” (*Hebrews 4:1*).

b) We have a choice as we walk with Christ, to hold unto our burdens or to take his yoke. Jesus wants to give us true rest, He said, *“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. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:29-30).