

**"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses,
yearning to breathe free..."**

TEXT: Mt. 11:28-30

THESIS: To reveal Christ as our rest, ruler, and Rabbi (teacher/example).

INTRO.: A. There are some interesting similarities between the symbols of our nations liberty and the statements of Scripture. Our **Declaration of Independence** proclaims our freedom, and **our Savior said: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."** **Abraham Lincoln** at Gettysburg spoke of those who died to set others free: "...that these dead shall not have died in vain." **Jesus said: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."** Our **Constitution** and **Bill of Rights** borrow their ideals from God's Word. **Jesus said: (Luke 4:18) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,... to preach deliverance to the captives,... to set at liberty them that are bruised..."**

ILLUS.: Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams originally proposed that the Great Seal of the U.S. picture a scene of Moses crossing the Red Sea. Our founding fathers believed they, like Israel, were going into the wilderness to claim a promised land flowing with milk and honey and given to them by God.

Ben Franklin: "...the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God rules in the affairs of men. And, if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

B. In **our flag**, which some want to burn in protest, or refuse to honor, I see not only the lives of those who died for our freedom, but in **its crimson stripes** I see **the blood of our Savior** Who gave His life for all men. In the **white stripes** I see **His purity and righteousness** and in the **star-spangled field of blue** I see **the promise of heaven**. But the striking words on our beloved **Statue of Liberty** are most instructive and favorably compare with **the words of our Savior in our text**. **Lady Liberty** pleads "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free." **Jesus invited all**, including the poor, the maimed, the halt and the blind" to come and said: **"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, & I will give you rest..."**

I. CHRIST OUR REST: v.28

A. His Invitation: **"Come unto Me..."**

1. The Stature of Liberty's inscription says "Give ME your tired..." but it is only a symbol of a nation.

ILLUS.: Many are denied when they come to America. We can only handle a limited number of immigrants. Borders are important! Limitations must apply and only those who qualify and meet the demands of naturalization should be admitted.

2. Jesus says: **"Come unto ME..."** and He puts no limits on that invitation, except **"whosoever will."** (**"He that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out!"**)

ILLUS.: Jesus has no immigration quota. Spurgeon (the Calvinist!) said: "(Jesus says) to His disciples 'Let no views of predestination ever keep you back from proclaiming My Gospel to every creature; and to the unconverted, 'Do not be discouraged by the doctrine of election...Come unto Me is His invitation.'" Not like the Calvinists today!

- a. This invitation demonstrates either egotism or omnipotence!
- b. This invitation is either a lie or bad news or the truth and good news!

ILLUS.: No pope, priest, or preacher dares invited people to come to him for rest. Jesus alone can deliver on His promise.

B. His Obligation: **"...I will give you rest"**

1. He speaks to those who **"labor and are heavy laden"** with burdens and sin.
2. He offers the most precious promise of rest and obligates Himself to all who will come.

ILLUS.: The Government just adds to our burdens (taxes, laws, restrictions); religion adds ceremonies, sacraments, works. Statesmen promise peace but can't deliver. Politicians promise prosperity but can't deliver. Our Savior promises relief from the burden of sin and delivers. He promises deliverance of the penalty for sin and delivers. He promises peace and rest for our souls and delivers.

3. The rest and peace He offers is spiritual and permanent, even into eternity.
4. Temporally He offers rest from works.

II. CHRIST OUR RULER: vv.29,30

A. His Exhortation: **"...take My yoke" v.29a**

1. Salvation is a trade off – we trade our slavemaster Satan, for our Sovereign Savior.

2. The soul must have a Sovereign (supreme authority) as well as a Savior.

ILLUS.: All freedom is restricted. You are not saved to sin, but to serve. The difference is the yoke and the Master.

- a. First is the invitation – **"come."**
- b. Then comes the exhortation – **"take."**

ILLUS.: When a person trusts Christ he accepts a new Master. Faith is passive, but service is active. Ex. Dr. and patient. "Trust me." "O.K." – but doesn't take the medicine because of its bad taste. He doesn't like his disease, but refuses the cure. Men don't like sin and its by products, but are unwilling to trade their yoke of iron for a yoke of wood.

B. His Explanation: v.30 **"...My yoke is easy"**

1. Some things are forbidden to the believer but He will give him something better.
2. You will trade the burdensome yoke of slavery to sin for the easy yoke of freedom of service.

ILLUS.: There is no rest in idleness or laziness. "There is no unrest greater than that of a sluggard."

- a. Salvation provides rest from sin and its slavery. V.28
- b. Service provides rest in the new yoke – it is rest after rest. V.29c **"Ye shall find rest unto your souls"**

III. CHRIST OUR RABBI: v.29b

A. His Instruction: **"...learn of me"**

1. It is not "learn ABOUT Me..." but "learn OF Me." (We would say learn **from** me.)
2. He is saying: "Let Me be your Rabbi – Teacher, Example."

B. His Illustration: **"...I am meek and lowly in heart."**

1. To believe what He teaches is something, to acknowledge Him as my religious leader is much, but to strive to be conformed to His character is the ultimate experience of rest.
2. He must be your Savior, He wants to be your Sovereign and He longs to be your Schoolmaster & Example.

CONCL.: Is He your **Rest** (Savior)? Your **Ruler** (Sovereign)? Your **Rabbi** (Teacher Example)? He is the Truth and the Truth will set you free!