

Day Thirteen: Receiving; Receiving Rest

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28-29

Life is hard. There are heartbreaks, disappointments, deaths, habits. Day in and day out is exhausting.

Ecclesiastes says we are "chasing after the wind." Searching, striving and doing it again and again and again. Worry plagues us. But Jesus offers Hope. We go to church, pray, do our best. But Jesus says, "Come to me."

In Exodus 33, Moses asks God to teach him his ways. God replies, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Jesus is compelling us to draw near to Him. He longs to connect with us, embrace us, allow us to stop striving to find our way. As we lean into him, as we accept His embrace, surrender ourselves completely to intimacy with our loving savior, we will find rest.

I am reminded of learning to swim. When we don't trust the water, we struggle. We flail and kick, we exhaust ourselves, and we ultimately sink and drown if we don't learn to relax. When we relax and trust, we lay back and rest. The water carries us with no effort of our own!

As it is with Jesus. Come close. Draw near. Lean on Him. The current of His love will carry us. The Living water will quench our thirst.

Today and throughout the rest of Surge 21, draw near to Him. Allow His presence to come with you. Surrender yourself completely to Him, and rest.

“Thou Hast made us for Thyself, O Lord; and our heart is restless until it rests in thee.”

Augustine