



Sermon Series: All Signs Point to Jesus

To be used with Session 2: The Sign of His Grace

Sermon Title: Jesus Is Approachable

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “The Sign of His Grace,” this sermon supports today’s Bible study by building upon the fact that Jesus invites all of us to come to Him as He is approachable and willing to meet our needs.

Introduction: Some people are approachable, and others simply are not. The person at work who struggles to crack a smile and always has his arms crossed seems unapproachable. The elementary school teacher who greets everyone by name on the second day and is always smiling is approachable. We learned in Bible study this morning that a non-Jewish dad approached Jesus to heal His son, and Jesus healed the man’s son. We will learn in today’s sermon and Jesus even invites us to approach Him as He wants to heal our souls.

1. Who can approach Jesus? (v. 28).

- a. Those who are weary from life.** If we are to truly understand what Jesus is teaching, we need to understand a few key words. The first word is *weary*. This word means to labor to the point of exhaustion. The culture in which we reside can easily produce weariness. We are connected to our phones without end. We convince ourselves that we will only answer a few more emails and we end up spending more time at our desks and less time at the dinner table. The younger generation can also feel this weariness. While they may not have work demands, they do have school, athletics, band, and so forth. They feel exhausted and as we will see, they too are invited to approach Jesus.
- b. Those burdened by legalism.** Another key word to understand is *burdened*. This word in the original language means something that we are unable to carry on our own. A burden is something that keeps us up at night and we simply cannot discover a solution. Paul used the same word when he commanded the church at Galatia to carry one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2).

If we are feeling this today, God’s word has some good news for us. Jesus is inviting all how are weary and burdened to come to Him. He is not inviting us to a religious checklist that would only add it our weariness and burden. No, He is inviting us to Himself.

2. What does Jesus offer? (v. 29-30).

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If we are honest, we must confess that we typically want to know what is in it for us. If someone wants some of our time, what do we get for sharing our time with them? If someone tries to get our attention in a discount store, what product do they want us to sample and why? We tend to default towards caution. If we approach Jesus, what does He truly have to offer? This passage shows us at least two things He is offering.

- a. **Jesus offers a teaching relationship.** We once again must expound upon certain words to fully understand what Jesus said. The word *yoke* was used to indicate a teaching relationship with someone else. Each teacher during this time had his own style and interpretation of the material. The teachers of the law expounded upon passages to such an extent that those under their yoke were wearied by the number of things they had to do or not do. This yoke quickly became a burden that led to discouragement.

Jesus, however, did not offer such a yoke. Instead, He said that His yoke was easy, and His burden was light. The yoke that Jesus offers is not a list of things to do and not do. It is not a weary and burdensome list of demands that one must follow. Instead, Jesus invites us to a relationship with Him. When we truly engage in an authentic and growing relationship with Him, we want to follow His commands outlined in Scripture because we love Him and know that His ways are best.

- b. **Jesus offers rest for our souls.** The soul, as understood in Scripture, represents the center of one's being. The love we feel for our family is at the center of our being. When we hear touching music, we say that it touches our soul. The rest that Jesus offers us is more than having fewer emails or a few free hours on our schedule. He is offering us rest for our souls, the center of who we are.

If we are correct in saying that we are a wearied and burdened culture, then we have found the answer to our problem. The answer is Jesus. It is not more religious activity in hopes of convincing ourselves and others that we are good enough. It is not more fame or fortune. It is simply trusting in who Jesus is and what He said. Rest for our souls is found in Christ and Christ alone.

Conclusion: The question now becomes: What do we do with these truths? For the person who has a relationship with Jesus Christ, yes, we still feel the burdens of today's world. Let us know that Jesus is offering us His yoke and rest for our souls. For the one who is trying to be good enough or use religion to earn eternal life, let today be the day you set aside the religious check list and find rest for your soul in and through a relationship with Jesus. Before we can find rest in the now, we need to know that we have an eternal relationship with Him and thereby have the promise of glory with Him.

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