

Matthew 7:24-29

“Therefore, everyone who **hears** these words of Mine and **acts** on them will be like a wise man who built his house **on the rock**.²⁵ The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of Mine and **doesn’t** act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house **on the sand**.²⁷ The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.”²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were **astonished** at His teaching,²⁹ because He was teaching ... like One who had **authority** ...

John 14:23 (NLT)

Jesus replied, “All who love Me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and We will come and make **Our home** with each of them.

John 6:63

The Spirit is the One who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all. The **words** that I have spoken to you are **spirit and are life**.

I Corinthians 6:19 (NLT)

Don’t you realize that your body is the **temple of the Holy Spirit**, who lives in you and was given to you by God?

{all one slide; all together}

Amazing, Scary, & Different Invitation:

- **An unshakeable life**
- **The “with-God” life**
- **Our body = the home of God**

RED LETTER GRAPHIC

--With TEXT #; web site; dates

Matthew 11

- **John the Baptist & Kingdom signs**
- **Unresponsive generation**
- **Jesus’ Prayer to Father & Invitation to us**

Matthew 11:25-26

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to **infants**.”²⁶ Yes, Father, because this was your good pleasure.

{bullet points come up one at a time; can be on different screens but keep the top sentence on each slide/screen with the different bullet point}

The words of Jesus will conflict with the voice(s) of pride in our lives:

- *I'm okay. I've got my beliefs, my truth, and living my life.*
- *Insecurity; shame, guilt: I'm a nobody. God surely isn't interested in me or willing to do much with me.*
- *I got saved awhile back. I'm not perfect but I'm a pretty good person. I just do the best I can.*
- *Self-Righteous: At least I don't Compared to those people, I'm good. Those people are ruining our community ... our nation.*

Matthew 11:27

All things have been **entrusted** to Me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal Him.

Matthew 11:28

Come to Me, all of you who are **weary and burdened**, and I will give you **rest**.

Jeremiah 6:16 (ESV)

Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the **ancient paths**, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find **rest for your souls**. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Matthew 11:29a

Take My **yoke** upon you and **learn** from Me, because I am **lowly and humble** (= gentle) in heart, and you will find **rest for your souls**.

Yoke: *purpose; work ... in partnership*

Learn: *a student of Jesus: way of life; way of handling things*

{numbers come up on separate slides; bullet points under the number can come up all together at once}

The Fullness of this Invitation:

- 1) Jesus is proposing a **close partnership** with Himself.
 - Partnership He has with Father-Spirit (based on their equality & love)
 - Partnership He wants with us (based on our dependence & His love)
- 2) This is a **process** more than an **event**
 - Learning; being a student/apprentice → disciple

- 3) This is about a **quantity** of life (=eternal) but also a **quality** of life (available now).

3 Confrontations:

- a) We are all already **yoked to something/someone** ... is it Jesus?

{the "arrows" come up one at a time; all on one slide}

3 Confrontations:

- b) We may have a wrong, bad, or incomplete **image of God**.
→ God: Near or Far?
→ God: His emotional state
→ God: His competence

3 Confrontations:

- c) We need to ask what is the **cost of NOT** being yoked to Jesus?

There is **no problem** in human life that being yoked to Jesus cannot solve.

There is **no purpose** of God for us that being yoked to Jesus cannot attain.

RED LETTER GRAPHIC WITH THE 5 WORDS:

Being
Forgiving
Serving
Giving
Going

Matthew 11:30

For My yoke is **easy** and my burden is **light**.

{same slide; one at a time}

Being un-yoked to Jesus is an un-easy life.

Being yoked to Jesus is the easy way to do hard things.

Being yoked to Jesus is the best way to live because of Who He is.

3 BIG QUESTIONS:

- 1) Did I learn THIS from Jesus?
 - a. Name the bad yokes ...
- 2) What is God saying to me ... to us today?
- 3) Am I a student of Jesus? Am I willing to be?