

SERIES GRAPHIC

Matthew 11:28-30

“**Come to Me**, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ **Take My yoke** upon you and learn from Me, because **I am lowly and humble in heart**, and you will find **rest** for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

{bullets come up one at a time}

Challenges Today:

- **Confrontation with how most of us live.**
- **If we do nothing with this sermon, after this sermon, it will be the worst sermon ever!**

{all together; one slide}

T-I-M-E:

- a) **What determines how you spend it?**
- b) **What is the best use or greatest way you can spend your time?**

Greatest (or best) way to spend our time → **being with God**

John 7:37-39a

On the last and most important day of the **festival**, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is **thirsty**, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ The one who **believes in Me**, as the Scripture has said, will have **streams of living water flow from deep within him**.” ³⁹ He said this about the **Spirit**. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit

...

Being with Jesus does something to me/us.

- **Transformational; Inside-Out**
- **Sufficient; abundant**

1) Jesus first asks for our **attention.**

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the Lord while He may be found; **call to Him** while He is near.

{Put both images together on one slide if possible and looks ‘clean/clear’}

<https://alchetron.com/cdn/attention-economy-6a5fcd1b-13a1-4365-acf3-1fa91157b0f-re-size-750.jpeg>

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/R.ca10e481bf3f6d65eae5ae8a97576066?rik=deNFVgAnAOCQUw&pid=ImgRaw&r=0>

{Bring up A and then B one at a time ...}

If being with God seems like an interruption, intrusion or disruption ...

- A) Wrong view of God
- B) Lifestyle is not conducive to life WITH God

There is a **pace** of receiving the **grace** of His presence.

1 Corinthians 13:4a

Love is patient, love is kind ...

2) Jesus then asks for our **thirsts** and invites us to **believe (=trust)** Him.

Where am I taking **my thirsts**?

Believing in Jesus == *Drinking that refreshes & fills & overflows* (= takes time)

Has believing things about Jesus replaced **BEING WITH** Him?

3) Jesus' presence transforms us from **thirsty to overflowing** ... blessed to blessing.

→ Being with Jesus does something to me/us.

Ezekiel 47:1-12 (NLT)

In my vision, the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw **a stream flowing** east from beneath the door of the **Temple** and passing to the right of the altar on its south side ... I could see the **water flowing out** through the south side of the east gateway ...

The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. ⁹ There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows ... ¹² Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the **river flowing from the Temple**.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)

Do you not know that you are **God's temple** and that **God's Spirit** dwells in you?

The **state** you are in is what you **give to others**.

Being with Jesus—**the way He invites us to**—does something to me/us.

A) It starts in the **mind** → we must fix our minds on God as He truly is.

Isaiah 26:3 (ESV)

You keep him in perfect peace whose **mind is stayed on You**, because he trusts in you.

Colossians 3:2

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

B) We must **magnify God in the mind.**

Holy Spirit:

- Goal is to glorify Christ (John 16:14)
- Inspired the Word (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - The Word = the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
- Helps us remember God's Word (John 14:26)

{Paterus, Advice to a Son}

"First of all my child, think magnificently of God ... Bear Him always in your mind. Teach your thoughts to reverence Him in every place for there is no place where He is not ... first and last, think magnificently of Him!"

SOUL DIAGRAM (DALLAS WILLARD)

--make sure this is very clear.

<https://i.pinimg.com/736x/9b/ab/9a/9bab9adca94985e2f3ec24dd68c60567.jpg>

Immediate and urgent concerns will make God seem small & distant to us.

Busyness and hurry will make God seem inaccessible to us.

{come up one at a time}

Best (and Worst) Practices:

- a) Have a "secret" place and a best time
- b) Slow reading of Scripture = **Someone you are WITH**
- c) Prayer as presence = **Someone you are WITH**
- d) *Other habits that suit your unique personality
- e) Do NOT make the goal information, "ah-ha's", special experiences, etc.
- f) Have a throughout the day "check-in" with God
- g) Must put guardrails around technology

→Start where you ARE, not where you are NOT.

C) We must be decisive → we will spend time with Father, Son & Holy Spirit!

