

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday, the Lee family worked on some puzzles. As I was thinking about our study for this morning, I thought about these puzzles. Our study is in Matthew 11:28-30. This morning, I want to consider the Invitation of Jesus (Slide).
2. Jesus often gave invitations to others. He would often say, “Follow Me.” His invitation is still available. This chapter will help us to better understand Jesus, how He could be so bold to offer such an invitation, and why we should come to Him. Some have glimpses and a know a little about Jesus. But when we put all the pieces together, it will make sense why everyone should come to Him and remain with Him.

The Lesson:

I. Matthew 11:1-6

- A. This first section looks at John the Baptist who was now in prison. He asked a question.
 1. “Are you the Expected One?” Is Jesus the Messiah?
 2. Is He the One the Father would send to deliver Israel?
- B. Jesus’ answer is YES. But not a verbal literal YES. Rather, He pointed to His Actions.
 1. His miracles and His preaching. Jesus was doing exactly what the Father wanted Him to.
 2. Why did John ask this question? Maybe because Jesus wasn’t meeting His expectations of what His ministry was to be like. The action of it. The speed of it.
 3. Sometimes Jesus may not meet the expectations we assume He should have.
 4. **Puzzle Piece:** Jesus is the Expected One. He was a miracle worker. He did do the Father’s will. A second piece: What expectations do you have of Jesus? Do they fit with what’s been revealed about Him? Will you be offended by Him if He doesn’t meet your expectations?

II. Matthew 11:7-15

- A. Jesus then spoke to the crowds about John. He was more than a prophet. He was the prophet who prepared the way for the Messiah, Malachi 3:1.
- B. We get another puzzle piece of who Jesus is.
 1. He is the one John prepared the way for in his ministry. Jesus is Lord.
 2. He is the one who would come to establish His kingdom.
 3. **Puzzle Piece:** Those who follow Him and are a part of His kingdom will be greater than John! Reason to come to Him.

III. Matthew 11:16-19

- A. Jesus then moves His discussion to the current generation. It wasn’t complimentary.
 1. He described them as like children sitting in the marketplaces. What do these kids do?
 - a. They call out to the other children and say, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance. We want you to dance this way. “We sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.”

They were fickle. We want you to mourn this way. They wanted John and Jesus to play to their rules. That's not how it worked!

2. When they should have been listening to John and Jesus, they didn't. No matter how John or Jesus appeared, they found reasons to reject their words.
- B. Jesus speaks to how that generation accused both John and Him of things that were FALSE.
1. **Puzzle Piece:** Wisdom will be vindicated. They would see how John and Jesus were right.
 2. Do we see how John and Jesus are right? Are we trying to make God play by our rules?

IV. Matthew 11: 20-25

- A. **Jesus Condemns cities because they did not repent.**
1. Jesus performed many miracles in many places that are not all recorded, John 21:25.
 2. His miracles were so people would believe in Him, John 20:30-31.
- B. Yet notice here they were also designed to cause to repent.
1. Here's another **Puzzle Piece:** Jesus wants believers and people to repent!
 2. Repentance was always a message in the ministry of Jesus. As with the apostles. And even with John the Baptist. That's why his head got cut off.

V. Matthew 11:25-27

- A. Jesus now speaks to the Father. He speaks about the wise and prudent and infants.
1. Those who are wise and intelligent (in their eyes) would miss the teaching of Jesus.
 2. But infants (the humble) God's will would be revealed to them. How? Through Jesus.
- B. **This is reason why people should come to Jesus.**
1. One can't get to the Father without going through the Son. The Father will be revealed when one comes to Jesus. One will never truly know God unless they come to the Son.
 2. Which is reason to Come to Jesus! Without Jesus, no one will see the Father.

VI. The Invitation of Jesus

- A. What have we learned about Jesus so far?
1. He is the Expected One who performed miracles to cause people to believe and repent.
 2. He didn't always meet the expectations of others, and that was okay.
 3. What's more important is that we meet His expectations.
 4. Through Him we can know the Father and have fellowship with Him.
 5. Through Him we can be a part of His kingdom and be even greater than John the Baptist.
- B. But wait, there's more! What more does Jesus say?
1. "Come to me." He extends this invitation for all people. It's for all who are weary and heavy laden. All have fallen into this category when we think about our schedules, daily lives, and challenges. So many are just tired and burdened.
 2. But there's another kind of tired and burden that comes from SIN. All have sinned and come through of God's glory. Jesus says "Come to me." Why?
- C. Because He will give us rest! What's better than that, right?

1. The Pharisees, Scribes, Herodians, Essenes, and Sadducees couldn't offer this. But God can. Today's Priests, Pastors, Reverends, Preachers, Social Media Influencers, or no one else for that matter can offer us this either. But Jesus can!
 2. His invitation should be taken seriously. It should also cause us to PAUSE.
- D. "Take My Yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart..."
1. A yoke was something...
 - a. Put on cattle.
 - b. Metaphorically, it used of any burden or bondage; as that of slavery.
 - c. It could also mean troublesome laws imposed on one, especially of the Mosaic law, hence the name is so transferred to the commands of Christ as to contrast them with the commands of the Pharisees which were a veritable 'yoke'; yet even Christ's commands must be submitted to though easier to be kept.
 - d. When we come to Him we must submit to His authority. This is part of coming to Him!
 2. Those who come to Him must learn from Him! He sets the standard. He is the WAY and we must follow in His footsteps. We are to be yoked to Him. That should change how we live our daily lives. This is where I think we miss so much.
 3. The pace of our lives should emulate His life.
 - a. A life of prayer, Mark 1:35.
 - b. A life of solitude to grow closer to the Father, Luke 6:11-12.
- E. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
1. What can be better than that? How is His yoke easy when Jesus speaks about the narrow path in Matthew 7, which can be hard and difficult? It's because He is with us. We are on a journey, but we're not alone. We are yoked with Christ.
 2. Through His strength all things are possible.

Conclusion:

1. The invitation of Jesus is amazing! Are you will to accept His invitation?
2. When we were doing our puzzles, there was one where we thought we had missed a piece? It didn't look right. It was annoying that we had done so much, and yet were short. We thought we had lost the piece, but it was always there.
3. Sometimes that's how our lives are. We have so much, and yet we feel like something is missing. Is there a piece missing in your life? You wont find it in any of the invitations the world has to offer. That missing piece is Jesus! He is the one that can truly fill your heart. His invitation still is available. Are you ready to be healed, made whole, redeemed from your sins? Accept His invitation this morning.