

The title for today's message is; **Come**

Jesus says "**Come to Me.**" **Who does He say it to and why?**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen

A few weeks ago I heard a story about a father who went to Minnesota to see his son play football.

He stayed at his sister-in-law's house in Madison after about a seven or eight hour drive.

I've always said when you invite company over, you need to realize that it takes a lot of work on your part.

You have to figure out how many people are coming and how long they are planning to stay.

There are other things to consider. Such as how much food and what kinds your going to need.

Some have allergies that restrict the food they can eat. Some might not like animals around. Some might not be able to go up and down stairs.

You have to take all this into account before you invite them over. How much work are you willing to do?

What about when someone asks you to come with them to do something?

You also have to consider where they are going, what they want you to do. He said he was invited to a Michigan State game a few years ago.

The ticket was free, but the parking, and the gas wasn't. He had to consider, "Is this worth the trip?"

The team was undefeated up to that point that year. So I went he said, and he was glad he did.

When our church invites members and new worshipers to come to our worship service.

It took some work to get the invites out and prepare for the a day of worship. So it's rather fitting that in today's text, Jesus says "Come to me."

Think about that invite. First consider who is asking you to come, how long it will take, where he is taking us, what he is asking us to do, and why?

Now, Jesus wants everyone to be saved, but in our text He doesn't seem to want everyone to come.

He only wants certain kinds of people, the weary and burdened. He doesn't ask the rich or the wealthy or the energetic or the happy-go-lucky.

No, He exclusively asks only for the weary and burdened: the two go together you know.

It's a neat thing too, because Jesus doesn't limit it to a certain type of burden or weariness.

That's right, It can be any kind. You can be weary of working so hard at your job or weary of being sick.

You can be weary of living because every part in your body aches or your sick and tired of arguing with your spouse your parents or your children.

You can be weary of everyone asking you for help. That's why anyone who is weary is told to come.

A woman at the well in Samaria who had led a very promiscuous life, she was in and out of relationships.

She would be the last one you would think would settle down and want to come to Jesus.

Yet when Jesus spoke to her, He saw that she was tired of her broken relationships, and the lifestyle she was living.

Even though she was almost ready for rest, she didn't realize it. So He spoke to her about her lifestyle and welcomed her to come to Him.

Why doesn't He ask for the healthy and the energetic and the successful?

Well It isn't that He doesn't want them, it's just that they don't want what he has to offer anyway. They don't want to rest.

It reminds me of when my daughter was younger. When we said the word "nap" she treated it as torture! She would actually run and hide.

As a young child I tried to barter with her. I'll read this one book, then it's time to sleep, no complaining!

“Ok! Yes, yes,” she would say. But then when I finished the book, she would howl and make noises.

I soon realized that I couldn't reason with her at bedtime. I just had to force her to lay down and go to sleep.

Now who are those who don't want to come to Jesus? Well its those who don't think they need a nap. Those who are too busy to rest.

Look, everything is going well for them. They're healthy, successful, their business is going well, their children are successful. There happy and active in life.

They have work to do. They have places to go. It isn't really that Jesus doesn't want them, He just knows that they don't want Him.

They would consider it boring and a waste of time. Now which kind of a sinner are you?

Are you someone who realizes that you need rest? Or are you someone that doesn't have time for rest?

If we are supposed to come to Jesus, it would probably be good to know where He is first. Some might say, “God is in nature, in the trees, or in my heart!”

Those things can all be true, to a point. Kind of like when you remember someone who has gone when you hear a song or go to a place where you used to hang out.

Memories flow of the times you used to have together. But it's not quite the same as when you were actually with the person at the time.

Look Jesus is more than a memory. He said; “Wherever two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.”

He claims to actually be where we speak of Him and proclaim His name. This is why we speak His words and sing songs of Him in worship.

Jesus specially comes to us in the Lord’s Supper where he says, “Take and eat, this is my body. Take and drink, this blood is the new covenant in my name.”

There’s something special here, something sacred about meeting together and hearing God’s Word and receiving His sacrament together.

There’s something sacred, God says, about when our babies are baptized into Christ to receive His Holy Spirit.

Jesus is where His word and sacraments are, given through pastors which God gives to the church as Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 4.

Jesus knew how much work we would cause Him. He knows how much time it would take to take care of us.

Yet He tells us to come to Him anyway. He wants us to come, and for one purpose, to give us rest.

This is the whole reason He went through all of the work of coming into our world and dying on the cross in the first place.

He died on the cross in order to give us a comfortable bed of love and forgiveness to rest in.

Jesus knows how worthless you feel. But here in His blood and His cross He just says, “Be forgiven. Be loved.

I consider you of great worth in my sight. I look at you as holy and precious as my Son.

You don’t have to match up to a standard to get this forgiveness either. If you’re tired, just lay here.”

He gives you a beautiful room with a window to the skies, pointing you forward to heaven.

So that someday you’ll be able to run and jump and see and hear like you’ve never done before. Why?

Because He lives, you too will live through faith in Him. That’s it. Here Jesus feeds you with a wonderful meal that is meant to refresh your soul.

He bathes you in a wonderful bath that washes your sins away. He does all of this to give you rest!

Listen to what Jesus says. “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Think about what a yoke is used for.

It binds an animal to a plow to break the ground, and it also binds one animal to another, to make the plow move easier under the power of two animals.

When we are rested in His grace and mercy, it doesn't make us lazy. It binds us to Jesus with His mercy and forgiveness, which gives us energy to live.

My friends if we try to live life without being yoked to Jesus, the weight is too much to bear.

Sooner or later life wears us out, no matter how bull headed we are. But Jesus puts the yoke of the law and failure around His own neck.

He bears the burden of sin. He then yokes us to Himself so that He can bear that burden of sin and death.

He then takes the reins and leads the way through life. He doesn't drive us with a bullwhip. He doesn't yell at us.

He is gentle and humble in heart. Whatever struggles we have in life, are "easy" and "light", when we know that He paid the payment for our sins.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy spirit be with us forever. Amen.