

"Come To Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give rest." Matthew 11:28

We are all familiar with the above passage from the Bible. It is a consoling promise from Jesus that when we cry out to the Lord, we will find comfort and rest. Weariness: we have all experienced it, though in different ways and for different reasons. Because our burdens are not simple, they cannot be relieved by a simple pat on the back followed by a "Cheer Up! Things are bound to turn around for you." So when Jesus told the people to come to Him with their burdens, what exactly was He pertaining to? First and foremost, He wanted to make sure we know without a shadow of a doubt that we **CAN and SHOULD** go to Him. Jesus offered Himself to take on not only our sins but also our problems, our troubles and our weariness as He suffered upon the cross. This is where our burdened souls are tested. Will we believe in Him? Will we trust Him? Will we accept His answer to our prayers, whether it means a yes or a no? Our human psyche pushes us in wanting the answers up front and to make sure that our problems will be addressed immediately. And that we receive the answer we want. We are an impatient people. He does not want us to rest on the "here and now" or the "how and when"; as if we are wise enough to understand the answers. Rather, we are to rest in the confidence that Jesus will keep His promise to us in the best way and at the very best time. *"Come to me," he says, "cast your anxieties on me for I care for you."* 1Peter 5:7. *"Trust in me with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding, he says, "and you will find rest for your souls."* Proverbs 3:5 His invitation for rest is not intended for us to do in isolation. He intends for us to come together as a community. We are all "burden-bearers" and become weary, discouraged and even mad. It is in those moments that we rely on members of our faith community to speak the truth to us and help us to believe and have faith in Jesus.

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