

April 3, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Mt. 11:28-30 *“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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.”* (NIV)

I am pleasantly surprised sometimes when I get a graduation invitation in the mail from one of my family members or their children. I often think that they are way too young to be graduating. Time does seem to slip by so quickly. I’m always happy that this person thinks enough of me that they would invite me to come to their graduation, or wedding or even their 50th wedding anniversary (ouch).

What is even better is receiving an invitation from the LORD Himself. Look at His first statement here: ***Come to Me***. Now I can tell you that there is no better place that you will ever be than in the presence of the LORD. He is inviting ***all you who are weary and burdened***. Is that you? It certainly is me sometimes. Life can seem to get hectic and even overwhelming. You may feel like there is no hope or no way out of the struggle that you are facing. The walls of life seem to be squeezing in on you from every direction. But then you hear His voice saying, ***I will give you rest***. Raise your hand if you feel you need some rest. I am lifting mine with you. Life, or better yet, existence can seem like a ‘rat race’ that never ends. You get up every morning and face another day of running the race. The LORD Himself is giving you permission to slow down for just a while and rest. You have to choose to do this. It will not come on its own. Some people are so tightly wound and so afraid that someone will accuse them of being lazy, that they never slow down at all. Rest is only the final product of death, they think. But listen to what the LORD of all says: **Ps. 46:10** *“Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”* (NIV) It is in the willingness to slow down, stop and realize that we are not the ones in control, but He is. He says to be still. Be still so when He speaks, you can hear Him. Be still and know Him. Be still. You cannot experience the abundant life that He has for you if you are not willing to slow down your ‘worldly pace.’ The LORD is inviting you today. Come to Me.

Dear LORD, help us to be still for just a while. To rest in Your presence. To experience the life that You have for us. Help us to realize that this is the day that You have made. In Jesus Name, Amen