

## Soul Rest

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2,3 Thrive, blank. Slide4, Video 5-9 Trail Life pics.
- B. Slide10 Ladies's Summer Series, 1st of 3 - Lisa Parish CCLaMirada. 6:30 coffee/fellowship. Worship begins 7pm. (night of worship, teaching, fellowship)
- C. Slide11a/b Happy Fathers Day - Video.

### II. Slide12 **Intro:**

- A. Last week (11:16-19) Jesus condemned the generation for their *childish reactions*. Here (20-24) Jesus declares *true discipleship* can only be enjoyed by those who come to Him in *childlike faith*.
- B. Theme: *Soul Rest Outline: The Condemnation. The Prayer. The Invitation.*

### III. Slide13 **THE CONDEMNATION (20-24)**

- A. At Jesus' 1st coming, it was **not** his primary thrust to *bring judgment*, **but** he needed to *denounce sin*.
- B. Slide14 He uses the *gentile cities*...Tyre & Sidon & the *godless city*...Sodom.
  1. They would have repented had they seen the miracles you have seen.
- C. Chorazin - Town in Galilee, just 2 miles N/W of Capernaum. (still in ruins today)
- D. Bethsaida - Home of Peter, & Andrew, James, & John. (still in ruins today)
- E. Capernaum - *Exalted to heaven* in that...heaven came & dwelt there.
  1. Remember 5 out of 10 miracles in ch's 8 & 9 were performed in Capernaum (including *raising* of Jairus' daughter). [the brighter the light the greater the responsibility]
  2. **Yet**, her *Greater Privileges* brought *Greater Responsibility*, & thus *Greater Judgment*. [instead of brought **up** to *heaven*, instead brought **down** to the *grave*]
- F. After criticizing the *unbelieving Jews* Jesus *thanks the Father* for His *believing disciples*.

### IV. Slide15 **THE PRAYER (25-27)**

- A. Slide16 Overview: Jesus 1st teaches *Human Responsibility*, last section, *esp. vs.20...they did not repent*. **Then** He joyfully proclaims the doctrine of *Election* (25-27). *The one to*

whom the son wills to reveal Him. Then He turns to give *a free & full Invitation* to those who are needing *rest. Come, Take, Learn.*

- B. (25) **Wise & prudent** = the self-sufficient. **Babes** = those who depend on God.
- C. (27) **All things have been delivered to Me** - He was speaking of His authority to reveal **the Father** to whomever He desired.
- D. **Slide17** Note the word **Father** 5'x.
1. Not all of us have an **earthly father** to celebrate on **this Father's Day**, we do have a **heavenly Father** who loves us more than even the best dads on this Earth ever could. **He's the ultimate protector, the ultimate healer and the ultimate comforter.** And He's a Father who we should *love, celebrate and praise today, tomorrow and everyday.*
- E. **Let's talk about Election.**
1. We **avoid 2 extremes** by not stressing **Sovereignty of God** only, **or Human responsibility** only. *I like to say...I did my part, & God did his part.*
    - a) **His part was:** He called me, sought me, caught me, loved me, saved me, cleansed me, healed me, & delivered me. **My part was:** running away.
  2. **Slide18** God's Election or Choosing is something that is just **of Him.**
    - a) It's interesting that most don't have a problem w/God Electing 1 little nation (Israel) & Him not electing all the rest. (**So, corporately** they don't have so much a problem **but** electing some individuals *thats not fair?*) **Yet**, they fail to realize that when God Choose *this nation* it was in the choosing of an *individual* - Abraham.
    - b) Jn.6:37 **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means** (*not not, never never*) **cast out.**
      - (1) We cannot always **explain** the mysteries of the Father's will, **but we can adore & obey Him.**

## V. **Slide19 THE INVITATION (28-30)**

- A. (28-30) These vs. are a special treasure **only** found here in Mt.'s gospel.
1. We have here *the center* of a **nothing bundt cakes** (*where frosting falls into center of bundt*).

- B. **Slide20** All you who **Labor** (weary) - All, *yes* not just Jews, all who would come/believe/take His yoke. What Labor?
1. Are you Laboring in the service of Formal Religion? In the attempt to keep the *law*, or in any other way of *self-justification*?
  2. Are you Laboring in the service of Self? To get gain, honor, ease, etc?
  3. Are you Laboring in the service of Satan, lust, drink, infidelity, etc.?
- C. **Heavy laden** (burdened) - Burdened w/what?
1. Jesus **contrasts** *the burdensome teaching of the Pharisees* by telling his disciples that His burden is **light**, Inviting them to full discipleship.
    - a) The Pharisees religion **didn't** provide rest nor peace. No human religion can give that.
  2. Laden heavily because of *weariness, disappointments, despair, or discouragement*.
  3. Laden w/*sin, guilt, remorse, fear of death*.
  4. Laden w/*sorrow, poverty, oppression, slander*.
  5. Laden w/*care, anxiety, greed, ambition*.
  6. Laden w/*doubt, temptation, conflict, depression*.
- D. **Slide21,22** I will give you **rest** - What kind of rest? It's that rest that comes w/*surrender* (batteries included)
1. Rest to the Conscience - by atonement & pardon.
  2. Rest to the Mind - by infallible instruction (H.S. our teacher).
  3. Rest to the Heart - a rest of Love. Jesus fills & contents the heart.
  4. Rest to the Energies - by giving an object worth attaining.
  5. Rest to the Apprehensions - assuring that *all things work for good*.
    - a) Maybe it was the end of an exhausting day & Jesus sees the workers from the field, the busy trader, the fisher & his nets, the slave w/his burden, the rich man w/his heavier burden of care, the gray-haired sinner stooping under the weight of years, & such like these.
- E. It's a **Rest to be found** (29) [This is *rest upon rest*, deepening & settling]
1. A rest that comes from *conquered passions & desires*.
  2. This rest **counteracts** the *Labors & Loads*.

- F. Slide23 (29) Take **My yoke** upon you - a metaphor for Jesus' teaching & kingdom lifestyle.
1. Be obedient to My *command*.
  2. Be willing to be *conformed to me* in service & burden bearing.
  3. Be submissive to the *afflictions* which I may lay upon you.
  4. **Yokes** were heavy wooden objects, used to connect 2 oxen together for more efficient plowing. In **contrast**, allegiance to Jesus and His kingdom resulted in **rest and not labor**.
  5. In **Judaism** they spoke of carrying the **yoke** of **God's law** & **Sabbath rules**.
    - a) Jesus promised *rest for their souls*, which He grabbed from **Jeremiah** (6:16). Where the context was God promising to *stay His wrath* if the people turned to **Him instead of** the words of the false religious leaders.
  6. **Acts 15:5** the question. **6-11** the answer (see esp vs.10)
  7. What is the yoke God puts on us? *It's God putting His arms around our necks.*
- G. Slide24 Know this...**God** is in charge of yokes. (remember yoke = submission)
1. Everyone must wear a yoke. We're like wild beasts that need to be broken.
  2. The yoke God gives you is the right one for you.
  3. Accept your yokes as from God & He will *transform it from bondage to blessing*.
  4. If you break the light yoke the next one will be **heavier**. (the prophet Hananiah took the wood yoke off of Jeremiah & broke it/represented babylon's yoke about to be placed on Israel. *Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus says the Lord: You have broken the yokes of wood, but you have made in their place yokes of iron*)
    - a) We only add to our chastening when we **resist** it.
  5. Your Youth is the best time to learn how to wear the yoke – Lam.3:27,28 *It is good for a man to bear The yoke in his youth. Let him sit alone and keep silent, Because God has laid it on him.*
  6. Let God **break you** & control you now, & the future will be bright.
    - a) **God uses broken things**. It takes **broken soil** to produce a crop, **broken clouds** to give rain, **broken grain** to give bread, **broken bread** to give strength. It is the

**broken alabaster box** that gives forth perfume. It is **Peter, weeping bitterly**, who returns to greater power than ever. Vance Havner

- H. **Slide25,26** (30) **Burden is light** - When a young ox is harnessed to a mature ox. The young ox will not even be pulling any of the weight, **It is merely learning to walk** in a field *under control* & *w/a yoke* around its neck. [note: from heavy load to light load]
- I. **Slide27** **Dr. Thomas Lambie** (1885-1954) [**1st Amer** missionary to *Abyssinia*/Ethiopia. Ministry started when he removed a *small beetle* from inside *Gov Ras Tessema Nadwe's* ear. **Founded 2 hospitals there**] Once told of a valuable lesson he learned from the natives. Lacking bridges, they were often compelled to wade across swollen streams to reach their destination. **The current was swift and there was constant danger of being swept off their feet into deeper water or among treacherous rocks.** The weight of the human body being me slightly heavier than water, it was difficult to maintain a foothold when waist deep in the stream. ***The natives therefore solve the problem by slinging a sack of stone over their shoulder for extra ballast to weigh them down so their feet would not slip.*** When they reached the other side, they emptied their sack on the bank.
1. So, too, **the Lord** places upon us burdens which seem to **weigh us down**, **but** in reality **keep us from slipping and falling.**
  2. So **trust** Him and **believe** that ***He lays no burden upon you heavier than is necessary to keep you safe.***
  3. So to give us **spiritual traction**, **God often keeps us down so that He may keep us up.**<sup>1</sup>
- J. **Illustration:** hitchhiker w/backpack gets picked up. Jumps on the open tailgate... **but** left his pack on. **Are you still caring your own burden after coming to Christ?**
- K. **Slide28-30** (back to 28) **Come unto Me** -
1. The clarion cry of the Christianity is the gentle word, **Come.**
    - a) **The Jewish law** was *a dispensation of terror*, which **drove** men before it as with a scourge; **the gospel draws** with bands of love. *Spurgeon*
    - b) Jesus is the good Shepherd going **before** his sheep, **bidding them follow** Him, and **ever leading** them onwards with the sweet word, **Come.**

<sup>1</sup> Bread For Each Day, Devotional, June 24th.

- c) The law repels, the gospel attracts. The law shows the distance which there is between God and man; the gospel bridges that canyon, & brings the sinner across it
2. Not go to Moses, but come to Me. Not come to Christianity, to Communion, nor Calvary Murrieta but come to Me.
  3. Come to a Person to Jesus, the living Savior.
  4. Come at once, Jesus is ready now. Are you?
  5. Come All who Labor & are Loaded, none will be refused.
  6. Come Ladened w/your burdens on your hearts. Come as you are. Come by faith...and I will give you rest.
  7. The Lord said to Noah, Come into the ark. Jesus said to Zacchaeus come down from that tree. Jesus said to Lazarus come forth. Jesus was asked, where are you staying? He said, Come and see.
    - a) Rev.22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*
- L. Will you respond to Jesus' invitation to you this morning?