

## The Sweetest Verse in the Bible

*Matthew 11:28*

If you were asked which verse in the bible was the sweetest one, which one meant the most to you, what would you answer? One person might say, "I was in trouble and need and I went to the Bible and I read the words "*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want*". I looked to that shepherd and He led me out of my trouble. Another one would say, sorrow came to me and I could not be comforted. But when I listen to the words of Jesus, "*Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.*" My heart was comforted and the darkness fled away. Another would say, there was a time when I felt that all the world was against me. My way was hard and rough. Then I felt a hand upon mine and I heard a voice saying, "*Lo, I am with you always even until the end of age- I will never leave thee nor forsake thee*". Then my heart was lifted up and I found peace. Still another would say, I was in deepest sin. I was on my way to hell. Then the spirit of God convicted me, for I saw one hanging on a cross and I heard him say, "*Him that cometh to me I will in on wise cast out*". I came to him, and He saved me from all of my sin.

But I believe that many of us would say that Matthew 11:28 is the sweetest verse in the Bible. Jesus looked upon the multitude one day and saw their lives filled with trouble and distress. He opened wide his arms and said. "*Come unto me, all you that laborer and are heavy laden. And I will give you rest*". He says that same thing to us, and, oh, how often we have fled to him for rest. What sweet comfort we have found in these words.

As we read this verse we see a picture of a man toiling under a hot sun, another man stands over him with a rod, beating him and urging him on. He struggles under the impossible task, which is his. Then a big load is placed upon his back and he falls beneath the load. He feels surely that he will die if relief does not come. The afternoon wears away and the shadows of evening fall, but there is still no rest, no food, and no drink. Then another man comes, stronger than either of these. He drives of the

oppressor, lifts the burden from the man's back, heals his wounds and gives him water and food. He then leads him to a quiet place and bids him to lie down on a soft couch. He gently smooths the man's fevered brow and that man has peace, rest and comfort.

This is what Jesus does. He finds Satan driving us; He finds us heavily laden with sin. But he saves us and gives us the best on this earth and the best in heaven. Yes, these are sweet words, *"Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"*.

## I. The Need for Rest

We are living in the most restless age the world has ever seen. There was a time when we were content to go for a slow ride in a buggy. Then when the automobile came along, men said that we certainly could not stand to drive over fifteen miles per hour. But we ride eighty miles an hour and think nothing of it. And now we mount up in jet planes and ride six hundred miles an hour in perfect comfort. And think nothing of it. There was a time when people would go to church and never be in hurry for the service to end. The songs would last an hour, then someone would pray for twenty minutes, and a preacher would preach for an hour. The people took all of that and come back at night for more. But now we want the preacher to make it "snappy". If we don't get out at twelve o'clock Sunday morn we begin to squawk. Today we want preacheretts to preach sermonette, to christianettes.

There was a time when men would wait a week for the next train, but now the growl when they miss one section of a revolving door. There was a time when we visited our relatives and were glad to spend a day or a week. Now we do well to spend an hour with mother on her special day in May. Oh, yes the world is full of unrest, strife and struggle. We need to listen to Him who said, *"Come unto me"*. The poor man lives from hand to mouth; he is always in debt. He needs rest. The rich man goes to the mountain in the summer and goes south in the winter. He needs rest. Another man toils at the same old grinding job for forty years. He needs rest. In many homes both parents work and the

children are shifted from place to place. The whole family needs rest. In some home there are quarrels and bickering. Rest is needed there also. Many people chase pleasure here and there all over the world. They need rest.

David said in his unrest, "*Oh that I had wings like a dove!*" for then I would fly away, and be at rest. We often feel that way. We want to get away for it all. So Jesus comes saying, "*Come unto me*"; you will find rest in me. This would be a better world if everybody looked unto him for that rest.

## **II. The Ability of Christ to Give Rest**

He had the ability to create the world, to heap up the mountain and to scoop out a place for the seas. He had the ability to create man with a mind and a voice, heart and a soul. He had the ability to heal the leper, to give sight to the blind and to bring life to the dead. He had the ability to feed five thousand on a few loaves and fishes. He had the ability to still the ragging storm and to quiet the waves of the sea. Surely has the ability to give us rest.

## **III. The Ones Invited To Find This Rest**

He invites those who are burdened with a load of sin. You have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The Holy Spirit has brought you to realize your lost condition. You cry out from the depth of your soul, what shall I do? Jesus says, "*come unto me*". I will take your burden away; I will remove your sins as far as the east is from the west. Oh, how wonderful to have such a vision.

He invites those whom sin is conquering. There are some people who are slaves to sin. Their sin has them in a death grip. Men are not able to overcome sin in themselves. They need the help that only Jesus can give. Are you fighting some sinful habit? You need the help one greater than yourself. Jesus says to you, "*come unto me and I will help you*".

He invites those who are burdened with doubt and unbelief. Thomas was a doubter. Jesus had risen from the dead, but Thomas had not seen him. The other disciples declared that they had seen the risen savior, but Thomas wouldn't believe it. Then on a marvelous Sunday morning Jesus came and stood before him and said, ***“Reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing”***. And Thomas cried out, *“My Lord and my God!”* His doubts flew away when he came to Jesus. If you have doubts come to Him and they, too, will fly away.

One day Peter looked at life and wondered if he had done the right thing by following Jesus. So he said, Lord, *“we have left all the to follow thee. What will be our reward?”* And Jesus answered, ***“The man who leaves home and love ones to follow me will be repaid a hundredfold in this life and everlasting life in I the world to come”***. It pays to follow Jesus. Don't ever doubt it.

#### **IV. How May We Find This Rest?**

Jesus simply says to us. ***“Come unto me, not a church; not to a priest or pastor, not to a creed, but to Christ”***. One day Jesus stopped by a well just outside the City of Sychar. A sinful woman came out to draw water. Jesus talked to her and soon she was expressing to him the age old urging for rest and forgiveness and peace of mind. He assured her that he could give her all of these things. She believed it and put her faith and trust in Him. Soon she was bounding back to the village on happy feet, happy because she had found peace for her soul. Maybe you have tried the wells of this world and they have not satisfied. Come to Jesus, for he alone can give you satisfaction and peace.

Yes, nineteen hundred years ago Jesus stood before the restless multitudes and said, ***“Come unto me and I will give you rest”***. He is still saying that. Oh, restless heart, come unto Him with all of your sins and all of your sorrows and all of your doubts and He will cause the sun to shine in your soul

Some years ago I attended a Pastor Conference on Monday morning in a great city. A dear old preacher of the Gospel, who had been quite ill for sometime, was back at the meeting for the first time since his illness. He told us of a dream that he had during his sickness. He said he dreamed that he was weary and tired and exhausted. Then he said he saw one coming toward him in snow-white robe. When this great being come near to him, he opened wide his arms and said to the sick man, *“Come unto me and I will give you rest”*. The old preacher then said, “in my dream I went to him. He put his arms around me and I leaned my head upon his shoulder and all my weakness and tiredness and exhaustion fled away. Dear friend, he invites you in the same manner. *“Come unto me,”* says Jesus an *“I will give you rest”*. That is the sweetest verse in the Bible. That is the greatest invitation of the Lord. Amen.