

# The Hospitality of God

Matthew 11:25-30

Crowds loved Jesus. People gathered around, broke through roofs, climbed trees, went into the desert, hailed Him into Jerusalem and thronged Him everywhere. His enemies had to watch what they said and did because they feared the people around Him. Why is this? Because Jesus saw the multitudes like sheep without a shepherd, and welcomed them home. He still does.

## God's Call

God's hospitality is the story of the gospel. He has always been inviting people to come to Him whether in the garden, in the call of Abram, in the tabernacle, the temple, and now in the church. The Father delivered everything to the Son, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those the Son reveals Him to (v27). We don't have a distant Father and a warm elder Brother in Jesus. They are one God, and the Son came because the Father sent Him. The proud won't come, and Jesus thanks the Father for hiding these things from them but revealing them to babes (vv25-26). Everyone hears Jesus' message, but those who won't believe Him can't understand His ways (cf. 11:20-24). We don't know who is proud until the call is issued, and many proud hearts are humbled later by the gospel: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Ps. 19:7; cf. Matt. 19:22). Every creature is called to come to God. You are invited to follow and grow in your knowledge of God every day, and to worship Him with His people every week. This invitation is standing and reissued. We want everyone one to hear Jesus' invitation to come to Him.

## God's Cleansing

Jesus invites those who labor and are heavy laden to rest (v28). Being separated from God is tiring and burdensome. Being a Christian with unconfessed sin is a drought (Ps. 32:3-4). God knows all of our sins, which is exactly why He invites us to come. The self-rested won't come. Why would we choose to carry the burden of trying to justify ourselves, or to pretend like we don't need to be forgiven? God's forgives, unburdens, and offers us rest. It's impossible to come into the presence of the holy God honestly and not be aware of our unworthiness and the offense of sin. But God doesn't scream at us, multiply guilt and shame, and assign 100 hours of community service. Jesus is without sin and yet perfectly gentle to us in our shame and brokenness (v29). Come to Him and find rest for your soul. God forgives as soon as we confess, and requires us do so immediately (Ps. 95:7-8). He wants us walking in the light, free of all guilt and shame.

## God's Conversation

The Bible is God's living word, and preaching is His oracle (Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 4:11; Acts 17:11). Jesus could only talk to thousands when He was on earth, so He ascended into heaven and sent the Spirit so that billions could read and hear His word with greater effect (Jn. 16:13). God speaks to us through one another, the Bible, creation and

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especially in worship. Our songs are a beautiful way for the word of Christ to dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16). Christians must increase in knowledge and wisdom because Jesus said “learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (v29). God calls us into this rich conversation to speak and learn, pray and read, sing and listen. Though the topics are infinitely deep and rich, His yoke is easy and His burden is light (v30). God speaks to us, and puts His word in our hearts and in our mouths so that we would speak to Him.

## God’s Communion

God made us eating creatures, and He is our provider: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it” (Ps. 81:10). The garden of Eden was full of food, and the grapes in Promised Land were enormous. Even after the fall this world is the kind of place where a single seed goes into the ground and becomes an enormous tree. We might think that when Jesus described the good seed bearing fruit thirty, sixty and a hundredfold, He was understating the case (Mk. 4:20). The waters of baptism lead to the Lord’s Supper where we commune with God, eating bread and drinking wine (1 Cor. 10:16). All who are part of the body of Christ are brought to the table. Every week God hosts you to commune with Him in this intimate and nourishing way. He invests you with talents to invest in His world and enjoy the increase.

## God’s Commission

Rid of our fatigue and heavy burdens, known and heard, encouraged and instructed, fed and rejoicing, God sends us out with His blessing to serve Him faithfully. His hospitality isn’t an escape from the world, but rest and rejuvenation for thriving in it. Not only is your professional life not divorced from your spiritual life, it’s a direct outworking of it: “And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands” (Ps. 90:17). God wants His people to be joyful and effective in all of their callings so He equips us with wisdom by the Spirit as He did Bezalel (Ex. 31:3-4). God’s hospitality is holistic: our bodies, minds, hearts and souls are received, comforted, and revived. He goes out with us to the work He has prepared.