

The Great Invitation

Matt 11:28–30

The Great Denunciation

20 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. 21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. 23 And Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. 24 Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.” (Matt 11:20–24 LSB)

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The Great Benediction

25 At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that [or because] You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. 26 Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. 27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” (Matt 11:25–27 LSB)

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The Great Invitation (or Injunction)

28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
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- Invitation #1: “Come to Me” (v. 28; cf. 4:19; 22:4; 25:34)
 - Universal: “all” (11:28 = plural: “all [of you]”; cf. John 6:37)
 - Personal: “who are weary and heavy-laden” (11:28 = active + passive: “who are working yourselves to exhaustion and have been burdened with heavy loads”; cf. v. 30; Luke 11:46)
 - Appealing: “I will give you rest” (11:28; cf. 1 Cor 16:17–18)

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- Invitation #2: “Take My Yoke upon You” (v. 29)
 - Responsibility: “take ... upon you” (v. 29 = active; cf. 1 Pet 2:21–25)
 - Contrast: “my yoke” (11:29; cf. Acts 15:10; Gal 5:1; 1 Tim 6:1)

“Behold, beloved men! What is the example that has been given to us? For the Lord has thus humbled himself. What shall we who have come under the yoke of his grace do?” (1 Clem. 16.17)

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- Invitation #3: “Learn from Me” (vv. 29–30; cf. vv. 25–27)
 - Character: “I am gentle and humble in heart” (v. 29; cf. 5:5; 21:5 // Zech 9:9; 1 Pet 3:4; Ps 34:18; Zeph 3:12)
 - Result: “YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS” (Matt 11:29; cf. v.28; 7:7–8, 13–14; Jer 6:16 = “stand,” “look,” “ask,” “walk,” “find”)
 - Relief: “My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matt 11:30 = “pleasant” + “easy to bear”; cf. v. 29; 23:4; 2 Cor 4:17; 1 John 5:3)

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