

The Biggest Obstacle in Overcoming People Fear

Matthew 11:28-29

The fear of people becomes a snare in this life (Prov. 29:25). It's a trap that keeps us in bondage.. Rest from the fear of people is the craving of every heart. For rest the manipulator controls. For rest the liar lies. For rest the businessman toils. For rest the widow weeps in misery alone. For rest the homemaker works. Some seek rest in honor, wealth, love and some even in hate.

"It is a marvelous thing and unknown to the world to teach Christians to ignore the Law and to live before God as though there were no Law whatever. For if you do not ignore the Law and direct your thoughts to grace as though there were no law you cannot be saved." Martin Luther

I. There is a comfort Christ gives in this text . . . "I will give you rest."

He refreshes the spirit. He renews the soul. He encompasses the sinner with his peace. The storms of life are like hurricanes, but the one with rest is in the eye of the storm. He does not always give rest from earthly toil, but will always give rest in earthly toil. He binds up the wounded heart; He heals the broken spirit. He gives to His people rest. Synonyms for rest would be "peace, contentment, joy, happiness, etc . . ." He can. He will.

II. There is a condition Christ gives. . . "Come unto *me* all ye that labor and are heavy laden."

There are two kinds of people in this text; those who labor and those who are heavy laden.

(A). Laboring people . . .

They know they have a job to do. They have a goal before their eyes. They work! These people are those that know they are at odds with God. They see their sin. They labor to make it right with God. They long to be made right with God. (Examine the lives of Augustine and George Whitefield and David Brainard). That which needs to be heard: Jesus does forgive you; not Jesus will forgive you.

(B). Heavy laden people . . .

These are people who have stopped laboring. Their sin has turned into hopelessness. Those who labor may be heavy laden, but it's possible for the heavy laden to not labor. Some have received Christ for salvation but try to earn their sanctification (Job 22:23). Christ Jesus is made unto us "sanctification" (I Corinthians 1:30).

Why are there so many "professing Christians" without rest? They've never labored.

We have many who come to the Physician without knowing they're sick. We have scores who have come to the Savior without knowing their sin. Refreshment is only for the weary.

III. There is a call that Christ gives . . . "Come . . ."

It is not . . . "Wait." Christ does not say "I'll come." He simply tells you: "Come."

(A). Where do you come? Come to where you find out about Him.

It is coming to Christ that brings rest; not to a doctor, nor a priest, nor a preacher.

(B). When do you come? Come the moment you feel labor and a heavy burden.

The moment you feel impressed to work for God's favor, and burdened by your sin.

(C). Why do you come? Come to find rest.

You believe Christ will do for you what no person, no circumstance, no event can do.