

Communion

Come to me, you who are weary

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2 February, 2020

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Jesus Christ was lifted up bruised, battered and bleeding on the cross for us so that we could see and hear Him calling to us, beckoning to us, 'Come to Me'. So that we *would* come.

Jesus is calling to you

He is still calling! To you, weary in your mortal flesh. To you, older and losing patience, still trying to deal with the persistent problems you perceive you have. Will you hear Christ calling to your heart, and come? Will you put aside your garment of shame, your self-protections and self-definitions, your own understanding? They are only the products of your own law, and that law is killing you. It's driving your self-condemnation and self-pity when you fail, by your own assessments, to meet your own measurements. But Christ died for those measurements of your law!

Instead of assessing yourself from your own viewpoint by your own measurements, turn away from your own perspective and look to Christ, seeking His perspective. Seek to know how *He* is looking at you. He *died* to redeem and deliver you from this way of living, so do you think you will find Him subjecting you to measurements again? Will you find Jesus

rejecting you? Writing you off because He's tired of you failing to meet the standards you've set for yourself? Of course not! What you *will* find is Jesus inviting you, 'Come unto me, and unburden yourself of that entire way of life. I've already put it to death for you. Now, will you join My offering? Will you die with Me?'

Jesus told His disciples:

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

(Matthew 16:24)

Your cross is your portion in His sufferings. On behalf of Christ, I plead with you, be reconciled to God by taking up your cross and dying with Him. He is waiting for your answer to His question: 'Will you take up *your* cross?'

The alternative, your own way of life, is actually your own death, impacting on you and on those around you. You may be a Christian, but if you are a religious Christian, no one can breach your self-protective armour. Imposing your self-motivated religion on yourself and on those around you is not God's predestination for you as His son or daughter. He wants you to come to Him!

As we come to the table of the Lord today, His body and His blood are ministered to us, not as a memory or as a symbol; not as a transubstantiation¹; but as a fellowship. We can come to Him and participate in His body and His blood in fellowship with Him, receiving

¹ A belief held by some that the *substance* of the communion bread and wine changes into Christ's

presence in body and blood (while the *appearance* of the bread and wine does not change)

from His hand and abiding in Him, turning to Him and seeing His face that is turned to us.

How great is the hope you have if the face of Christ is turned to you! He does not look at you in judgment, even if He is not happy with the way you are living. Can you cope with that?

Just because Christ is not happy with some of what we do doesn't mean He is judging us. It means He is unhappy that we are damaging ourselves and others. *We* should be unhappy that we're damaging ourselves and causing people around us to be unhappy!

Participate with Him

God, in His love, is urging us to come into the fellowship of His offering, and our participation at His communion table today expresses our participation with Him.

Some of you who are hearing or reading this today grew up in a household that was under a fatherhood that trained you in a 'gospel' of condemnation that has left you carrying a very heavy burden. The Lord wants to deliver you to Himself, out from under that burden you received in your father's house. *He* is the Father of your spirit, and by His gospel He has made a new context in which you can flourish and nurture your own children, free of the condemnation you've been carrying.

If this is you, the Lord is clarifying it for you by shining His light on the matter. His eyes of love are on you, and He is drawing you to Himself, helping you to let go of that old gospel that so condemned you. He is leading you to join Him and live, you and your household, in the grace of His life. It is beautiful that the word of the Lord is for whole households!

"A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket,

but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house." (Matthew 5:14-15)

His word brings light to us, but is not then hidden under the baskets we fill with our own provisions and tools for the business we call life. As Jesus said, the light is for hanging on a lampstand so that it sheds light for the whole household.

So then, when His word comes to us, we've got to remove those things in our everyday life that, like a basket, cover the light. We can all run so hard just to pay the bills, or to reach our objectives, but when these concerns of ours are uppermost, we cover up His light.

This was the issue the Lord highlighted for Martha (Luke 10:38-42). She was encumbered with many things, all of which were important but were competing with Christ as her Lord and taking priority over Him. If you have anything in your life that competes with the lordship of Christ, it will not work out for you but will weary you. It will wear you right out, because you'll be praying hard to the very Lord whom you won't serve with your whole heart, and the contradiction you are living will become very hard.

The mercy and faith of God's word

It is the mercy of God to show us and to free us from the many vain traditions we have from our forefathers. Thank the Lord for the word and work of His cross that He brings so specifically in His mercy to deliver us!

Because of His great love, we can receive His word absolutely into our hearts, without restraint, without assessment, and without any shame, knowing that the faith of the Lord for the fulfillment of His word comes with the word He sends.

Therefore, by the faith, capacity and grace He has already ministered to us today in His word, we can walk with Him in the way He is delivering us to today.

Come to Him, you who have become weary, laid low and burdened down with your own law, your own assessments of yourself, others, the Scriptures, the gospel, and even of God Himself. Come to Him. Join Him in the fellowship of His body and His blood. Abide in Him, allow His blood to be your life, just as He is inviting you:

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 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.” (Matthew 11:28-29)