



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

## 360 DISCUSSION GUIDE

# ALL WHO ARE WEARY

MATTHEW 11:25-30

The message of Jesus is nothing, if not counterintuitive.

You hear it in the bold declaration, “Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for my sake and the gospel will find.”

You hear it in the rhythmic pronouncements of the Beatitudes, “Blessed are the poor in spirit... those who mourn... the meek... those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... the merciful... the pure in heart... the peacemakers... those who are persecuted...”

You see it in Jesus. Isaiah describes him as one who would have, “...no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him...” Jesus describes himself as “lowly and humble of heart.”

The blessings of the gospel are enjoyed by a completely different class of people, than those who enjoy the blessings of the world. Indeed, the blessings of the gospel are of a completely different class than the blessings of the world.

The invitation of the gospel does not come to the accomplished and self-sufficient, but to those who are weary and burdened.

Jesus’ invitation falls at the end of a remarkable passage, the final three paragraphs of Matthew 11. Jesus praises God for revealing these things to small children, while concealing them from the wise and understanding. He then points to himself as the ultimate revelation of the Father and invites everyone who has been beat up by the world to find rest and comfort in him.

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## THOSE TO WHOM THE FATHER REVEALS HIMSELF (vv. 25-26)

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

1. Jesus addresses God as both "Father" and "Lord of heaven and earth." How do each of these two enlarge our understanding of God?
2. How does God reveal himself as "Lord of heaven and earth" in this passage?"
3. How does God reveal himself as "Father?"
4. What happens when we approach God as "Lord of heaven and earth" but fail to recognize him as our "Father?"
5. What happens when we approach God as Father but fail to recognize that he is Lord of Heaven and earth?
6. Why do you think it pleased God to hide "these things from the wise and learned, and reveal them to little children?"
7. What do you think it means to approach God as a little child?

## THE ONE IN WHOM THE FATHER IS REVEALED (v. 27)

<sup>27</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

1. How would you describe the "all things" that have been committed to Jesus by the Father?
2. How does the Father know the Son in a way that no one else knows him?
3. How does the Son know the Father in a way that no one else knows him?
4. What do you think it means to "know" the Father and Son in the manner this passage describes?
5. How do we come to know the Father?

## AN INVITATION TO FIND REST AND PEACE IN JESUS (vv. 28-30)

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

1. What are the things in life that cause us to be weary and burdened?
2. How does Jesus describe himself in this passage? Why is that good news for a weary soul?
3. What does Jesus ask us to do in order to experience his rest and peace?
4. How would you describe the yoke that Jesus invites us to take on?
5. What makes the burden of the gospel light?
6. How can we more fully experience the rest that Jesus promises those who follow him?