



## A weekend with Jesus Saturday morning



**“...someone who had mastered the inner life — or had at least gone much farther down that road than most.”**

**John Ortberg describing Dallas Willard**

*“Jesus only ever invited us to come to me, learn from me, abide in me, and follow me”*

Dallas Willard.

## Matthew 11

25 Then Jesus prayed this prayer: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise and clever, and for revealing it to the childlike. 26 Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!" 27 "My Father has given me authority over everything. No one really knows the Son except the Father, and no one really knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." 28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Learn from me - let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

## Flow – place in the gospel

- Just lamented over places who rejected him
- Thank you Father – the learned and wise don't get it, but you are revealing it to the young, the ordinary
- Echos of "I am the way..."

## Dwelling in Scripture

- Pray
- Engage with gospel story, dwelling in Scripture,
- Observe, notice (and ask, why did I notice that?)
- Question
- Check
  - Background of the gospel
  - Flow, place of the story in the gospel
  - Cultural context – what it mean for them
  - Key words, meaning and use in other places of Scripture
- Observations in today's context – the "so what?" Personally and as a church community.
- Time for response

## Matthews gospel

- For Jewish readers, probably Jewish believers
- Large amount of Jewish material and links to OT
- Particularly interested in showing Jesus is the messiah from prophecies, and teacher
- Themes of Kingdom of Heaven, strong call to discipleship, OT fulfilment, criticism of religious leaders
- Likely written for teachers – those who would take the scriptures for the people and teach them. Like a manual for church leaders

## Cultural context

- Like a son and a father, there are things that only Jesus could know and tell
- No longer did you have to be a scholar – someone who studied for years and was out of reach for most people. You could have truth revealed to you
- The wise and learned were getting no where, but the little people, the poor, sinners, tax collectors, ordinary folk – were discovering more of God simply by following him – in Jesus
- God is unknowable until He reveals himself – Now Jesus was saying you can know God through me - only the son knows the Father.
- Come – not go to God.
- The weary and heavy burdened are particularly invited
- Offers rest – not the end of work, but peace and fulfilment and a sense of being put right

## Key words

- Soul - psyche, where there is life. Seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions, –
- Learn – to increase ones knowledge, to learn by use and practice, to be in the habit of
- Yoke – zygos – on draught cattle, commands. Used of any bruden or slavery.



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- The Pharisee law was known as a 'yoke'

## So what? Care required

- Check: is it consistent with wider scripture?
- Is it consistent with the wider church
- This is what we sense God saying to us (verses) "This is what this scripture means."

## So what?

- Weary from daily life? Or freedom from religiou living
- Yoke – a sense of partnership
- Take my yoke upon you – it is not heavey or ill fitting – it is light and comfortable
- Starts with Jesus, and participating with what God is doing
- there is no particular behaviour or action that is required to fulfill that relationship,
- To see it, do we need to be like the learned and wise? No the childlike
- **Yoke – is individual, and community. I think we have an individual yoke, and a corporate one. Kings church – what does it mean to be yoked to Jesus?**

The Message: 28 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. 29 Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. 30 Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

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## John 7

37 On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "If you are thirsty, come to me! 38 If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within." 39 (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

## Flow

- In between a lot of arguing about arresting Jesus or not
- The pouring out of water out of the rock in the desert - Exodus 17.
- Ezekiel's temple
- Festival of tabernacles/shelters. Lev 23:33-43; Deut 16:13-15.

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## Gospel

- Author – John the beloved, son of Zebedee.
- John 1-12 – the book of signs. Topically arranged rather than timeline
- John 13- 21, the book of glory. (79) switches to the scene of the Passover. Jesus turns privately to his disciples.
- Last 9 chapters centre on the last few days of his life. Teaches them, washes their feet, talks about persecution. 13-17 preparing his disciples for his death
- 5-10 Jesus appears at a number of festivals – uses ancient OT symbols and practices to reveal himself to Gods people

## Festival of tabernacles/shelters



## Key words

- Out of the heart – belly, soul, innermost part

## So What?

- The act of pouring the water out saved the nations life –
- Jesus was making a profound statement. I am the life now. Come to me if you are thirsty. Thirsty for life

## Dwell

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Learn from me - let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

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