

The Sweetest Invitation

Matthew 11:25-30

"At that time ..."

Jesus has just pronounced ' _____ ' for three cities that had the most exposure to Him – witnessed the most miracles, heard the most messages – because they did not _____ for who He truly is and _____ and _____ Him.

Amplifying their _____ was the startling declaration that the cities most notorious for receiving God's judgment – Tyre, Sidon, Sodom – would have all repented with the same revelation!

With all their opportunities to do so, why didn't most of the residents of these 3 cities of Galilee repent of sin and follow Jesus?

- 1) _____ (11:23)
- 2) _____ (11:25)
- 3) _____ (11:28)

But that's not all:

- 4) God had _____ the revelation of Jesus (that would have caused them to repent) from them! (11:25)

Is this "fair"?

Scripture's answer:

God is _____. "... Father, Lord of heaven and earth ..."

He has the _____ and _____ to do whatever He pleases.

God is _____, therefore whatever He does is _____.

Fairness and justice are intrinsic to "goodness".

It is by God's _____ that He chooses those to whom He will _____ reveal Himself.

See: John 5:19-27; Matthew 13:10-13, 16; 2 Corinthians 24:1-6

And God's *sovereign grace* – while often debated, sometimes disputed, and occasionally even despised by us – was _____ by Jesus!

Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

Why should we be thankful that God – according to His good pleasure – chooses to _____ Himself in Christ as He sees fit – and that Christ chooses to _____ the Father as He sees fit?

Because it is His _____ that enables us to _____ in a way that saves us.

And it is His gracious will that makes the sweet invitation Jesus offers _____ ...

God's emphatically clear promise: You _____ . I _____ .

²⁸ ***Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.***

His _____:

God's eternally generous offer: You _____ . I'll _____ .

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

His _____:

Who is this genuine and beautiful invitation for?

_____, in seeing their desperate need and His generous mercy, will _____ to Jesus.

_____, recognizing their own inability and His ability, will _____ to Jesus.

_____, desiring Him and His good and loving rule in their lives, will _____ to Jesus.

_____ if you are "chosen" or "elect".

Ask instead if you have _____ of your _____; _____ what the Father has revealed about Jesus – and Jesus about the Father; and have _____ in faith for salvation.

And _____ if those you care about care about are "chosen" or "elect". Instead pray that God – by His sovereign grace – removes the blinders and reveals Himself to them in a way that leads them to _____ to His offer of salvation.

My response today to Christ's offer of grace and mercy: