



Grain

“It is easier to be forgiving and in relationship with Jesus than it is to be angry.” –Rev. Dr. Joy J. Moore

Field

16 "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 17 "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon'; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:16-19, 28-30

Thoughts

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Who needs those words? Hear Jesus' invitation again: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." All you who are weary of the pandemic, all who are grieving, all seeking justice, all you who come from generations of pain, all you breaking cycles of hate, all who imperfectly try to love, all you who are ill, unemployed, overworked, lonely, exhausted, or worried, "come to me."

"For my yoke is easy and burden light." But is it easy to be yoked to Jesus, to be a disciple obedient to God? In verses 16-18, Jesus is letting out some righteous anger about people choosing to turn away from God's truth and love. He in so many words says, "Look, people, John came to you living a life of severity and calling you a brood of vipers, and then I came befriending the people, but it didn't matter. This generation effortlessly dismisses God no matter how the divine appears. But was it actually effortless to go on living the way they were? When it comes to an ongoing life style, it is easier to live with love and be in relationship than it is to live off of a perfection script, or dismiss my neighbor as a caricature, or to seek revenge.

Bring all that difficulty in and flawed attempts at choosing love to me, Jesus says. My way will ease your tired soul. Maybe just in prayer sitting alone, or realizing the shoulders you stand on, or perhaps in unexpected help from a friend, family member, or community, you will know this support, this grace. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy