

# Learn from Me

Matthew 11:28-30

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**A**t times it can be difficult to peel our attentions away from the things that we love in this life to focus on God, heaven, and salvation. We may think about spiritual things from time to time, but for the most part our attention is caught up in the affairs of this life, forcing the kingdom of God to take a back-row seat in our hearts.

For some, it is a security issue. While leaving past sins behind to pursue godly things, we are charting new territory for our lives (Rom. 12:2). The many changes that this requires can be frightening. Sometimes, it seems comforting to hold on to the things that are familiar to us, even if those things prevent us from drawing near to our only true source of security—God.

We have such a wise God that He understands these difficulties. Because He is such a loving God, He gives us help to overcome them; He gives us His Son to show us the way and to help focus our attention on the most important things. Thus, Jesus said in Matt. 11:28-30, “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*”

Jesus tells us to learn from Him, because He is able to teach us how to live in this life in such a way that we can enter the kingdom of heaven. He teaches us, not only as our Lord and King, but as our guide. On a trek through the wilderness or a climb up a mountain, teams are often led by guides: experienced explorers who have made the trek before and know the right way to go. We can learn from Jesus because He has made the trek and is able to show us exactly how we must walk in order to reach our destination. That is why the apostle John exhorts us saying, “*He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to **walk just as He walked***” (1 John 2:6).

It was God’s plan since before the foundation of the world that we should walk in Christ. In Eph 1:3-4 Paul wrote, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.*” He went on to write in 2:10, “*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*” Before the earth was created (Gen. 1:1) there was eternity. In eternity there was the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—all that is Deity. At some point (of which we do not know), spiritual beings were created (angels, cherubim, seraphim, etc.). Then, the earth was created, and finally man. But before all these things were created, God had determined that we should walk in Christ. Before the physical things which mankind has come to know and love so much ever came into existence, there was a way which our eternal Creator intended for us to walk. That is the way Jesus shows us.

Yet, there is another advantage to learning from Jesus. In His discussion with Nicodemus, Jesus said, “*No one has ascended into heaven....*” (John 3:13). In other words, there is no man living who has ever been to heaven and who can tell us exactly what it is like there.

However, Jesus went on to say, *“No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.”* Jesus is the *Son of Man* who has ascended into heaven and who is in heaven. We must see the significance of this. Jesus did not begin on this earth as we have. He existed in heaven before this life was created! He came to earth, having been in the presence of the Father, in the same form as the Father, and in the same glory (Phil. 2:6). Having existed in eternity, Jesus came to the earth and it is He who shows us the way to eternity!

When we have trouble finding the confidence to let go of the things of this life or to let go of our past sins, think about this. When Jesus tells us to seek first the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 6:33), He speaks from firsthand knowledge of what that kingdom will be like. When he says to *“lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven”* (Matt. 6:1), it is because He knows firsthand how much better heaven is than this life. He is the Son of man who came down from heaven. And He came to this earth to show us the way to that very place!

Jesus is *“the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6) in more ways than we may realize. He is the way because through His death He forged the *“new and living way”* by which we are able to enter into the presence of God (Heb. 10:20). He is the truth because the words which He speaks from the Father are the one and only truth (Heb. 1:1-2). He is the life because He is the only source of eternal life for mankind (John 3:16). But Jesus is the way, not only because He died on the cross, but because He was in heaven before He became a man, because He lived as a man, and because He is in heaven now! It is because of His firsthand knowledge of heaven and eternity that He is able to say, *“Learn from Me.”* He has been there; He knows what it takes for a person to enter into heaven. We must learn from Jesus, because the life that He lived on this earth is the pattern, the standard, for all men who desire to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Therefore, the next time we are tempted to hide in our bubble of worldly comforts and to shy away from doing what is right, remember why Jesus is able to say *“Learn from Me.”* With Him as our guide we are able to have all confidence while serving God. Because Jesus shows us the way, we are exhorted, *“let us draw near with a true heart in **full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water”* (Heb. 10:22).

When you are tempted to go back to your old ways, look to Jesus. When you feel nervous about giving up the things that you once held so close, remember the confidence you can have in Jesus Christ. When you are placed in the position of having to make a sacrifice to do the will of God, remember Jesus who tells us from experience to *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”* If we do this then we will succeed. Through Christ we can be victorious. *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is He who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”* (1 John 5:4-5)

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