

Resistant Hearts and Resting Hearts

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Big Idea

Jesus exposes resistant hearts that always find reasons to refuse God's message and messengers, and he invites weary hearts to come to him and find rest.

1. Resistant Hearts Refuse Every Song

Matthew 11:16-17

Jesus compares "this generation" to children in the marketplace who refuse to respond.

They will not dance when the flute is played.

They will not mourn when the dirge is sung.

John came with the funeral song of repentance.

Jesus came with the wedding song of grace.

Resistant hearts refused both.

Key line: A resistant heart can always find a reason not to respond.

2. Resistant Hearts Call Wisdom Foolishness

Matthew 11:18-19

John came with fasting, simplicity, and prophetic urgency. They said, "He has a demon."

Jesus came eating, drinking, welcoming sinners, and bringing kingdom mercy. They called him "a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."

They meant it as an insult, but Matthew wants us to hear it as good news.

Jesus is the friend of sinners because Jesus is the physician for the sick.

Key line: The wisdom of God is not always obvious to the suspicious, but its fruit tells the truth.

3. Resting Hearts Receive What the Father Reveals

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Matthew 11:25-27

Jesus praises the Father because he has hidden these things from the “wise and understanding” and revealed them to “little children.”

This is not anti-intellectual. The issue is not intelligence. The issue is posture.

The kingdom is not seized by the impressive. It is received by the humble.

Jesus then declares that no one truly knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son reveals him.

Key line: Jesus does not simply tell us things about God. He reveals God from the inside.

4. Resting Hearts Come to Jesus with Their Weariness

Matthew 11:28

Jesus says:

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

He does not invite the weary first to a system, program, performance plan, or improved version of themselves.

He invites them to himself.

The resistant heart is restless because it is always trying to protect itself. The resting heart comes to Jesus because it knows it needs him.

Key line: Jesus does not stand over the weary with another burden. He stands before them with an invitation.

5. Resting Hearts Take the Yoke of the Gentle King

Matthew 11:29-30

Jesus does not offer yoke-less autonomy. He says:

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.”

Rest does not mean no discipleship. Rest means the right yoke under the right Lord.

Jesus' yoke gives rest because Jesus is “gentle and lowly in heart.”

His way may be costly, but it is not cruel.

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Key line: The strongest person in the universe describes his heart as gentle.

Closing Summary

There are resistant hearts and resting hearts.

Resistant hearts always find fault.

Resting hearts look for Jesus.

Resistant hearts refuse every song.

Resting hearts let Jesus teach them when to mourn and when to dance.

Resistant hearts use criticism to avoid surrender.

Resting hearts receive what the Father reveals.

Resistant hearts carry the burden of always being right, guarded, and in control.

Resting hearts come to Jesus.

The restless heart can always find something to criticize. But the resting heart has found someone to trust. His name is Jesus, and his invitation still stands: "Come to me."