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by Shad Williams

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Please pray for our upcoming campaign to Kenya August 17-31.

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COME UNTO ME

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In Matthew 11:28 Jesus said, *“Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Then in John 7:37 He said, *“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.”* In the later verse, the word **thirst** means to “painfully feel want and eagerly long for.” **Come** means simply to “move from one position or place to another” - literally or figuratively. The word **drink** means to “receive into the soul refreshing and strength.” The combination of the two Scriptures plainly tells us that the answer to all of life’s burden’s, trials, and challenges lies in coming to Jesus - moving from a place of struggle and panic and despair to a position of faith and utter trust in Him. One writer refers to coming to Jesus as the “great solution.” In so doing we find rest, every time.

For every born-again child of God, there are two possible responses to every circumstance in life, natural or spiritual. The option to choose is provided by the Holy Spirit indwelling our inner man. As a Christian, the most important thing is not the circumstance we are in but our response to it. In every situation in life we have the option of turning to God in faith, thereby bringing glory to His Name - or not.

The word **rest** in Matthew 11:28 means “refreshing.” It also means “to pause, cease, reverse and stop”, but it does not mean inactivity or to stop working. Rather it means to continue on, but in HIS strength, in HIS enabling. The thing that should cease is the struggle, the thirsting without satisfaction. God wants to reverse the struggle and turn it into peace and joy and refreshing, but He will not if we refuse to come. The word rest in this passage is not something that happens to us; it is a position we choose by deliberately coming to Jesus. It requires leaving where we are in our thinking and going to Him in faith. And it IS a choice we can make.

So, if we know what to do and we know we have the power to do it, then why don’t we? It is because of unbelief, which is produced by a wrong outlook in our thinking. The problem is that we tend to see ourselves and our circumstances as separated from God. It is a perception and feeling fostered by the devil. As

Christians we know we are connected to God through faith in Christ for salvation. But the sense of separation from Him concerning everything else seems to linger in our hearts. How were we saved from hell? By coming to Jesus. How can we be saved from everything else? The same way - by coming to Jesus. Contact with Him changes everything; our eternal destiny, our circumstances, and our reactions to them. Contact with Jesus turns panic to peace, struggle to strength, and trials to triumph.

In John 4 we see a Samaritan woman coming to a well to draw water, and there she encounters Jesus. She had a need and He was the answer, but she could not see it. In verse eleven she asked this question, "*Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?*" In effect she was saying to Jesus, "I cannot meet my need and you can't either." Initially, of course, she did not realize Who she was talking to. But we do, and still we so often say the same thing. We say it by choosing to continue on in our lack, or in our struggle, rather than coming to Jesus in faith. That woman was standing right in front of Jesus physically, but it was coming to Him in her heart that changed everything. The moment she recognized Jesus as her supply and received it in her heart, her need was met; her thirst was quenched, and she received refreshing and rest.

Dear Christian, regardless of what you are facing today, you can and will find refreshing in Jesus if you will only cease from self effort and come to Him. Stop figuring, stop consulting with other people, stop searching, stop struggling, stop feeling sorry for your self, and come. The problem the Samaritan woman had was that her world was too small, too limited. She could see no possibility of finding help beyond her own self-efforts. You will never think or feel or work your way to rest. But, you can have it instantly if you will simply COME!

But how? You do it through prayer, the same way you came to Him when you received Him into your heart. Simply pray something like this, "Lord Jesus, I admit I cannot solve this problem or meet this need in and of myself. But, I believe in You and I believe that You are my Great Solution. You are my supply, and I receive from You refreshing and rest." Dear child of God, Jesus will satisfy every thirst, but you must come – and keep coming. And be assured, He never tires of your coming. "*If ANY man thirst, let him come unto ME and drink.*"

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

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