THE CALL OF THE MASTER
Matthew 11:28-30

INTRODUCTION:
1. In Matthew 11:28-30, we find what is often referred to as the “Call of the Master.”
   A. In considering this “call,” it is important to notice to whom it was issued:
      1. The rich and the poor, the high and the low, the red and the yellow, the black and the white.
   A. Actually, no one is exempt from this all important “call” - Matthew 11:28.
2. With this lesson, I would like for us to notice several things that are implied by our text.

BODY:
1. IT IMPLIES SOMETHING TO DO
   A. Many people incorrectly leave the impression that there is nothing that the non-Christian has to do in order to be saved except to believe in God.
      1. This is clearly seen to be a false premise.
         A. Jesus said, “Come unto me.”
         B. It is clear that God will not force us to serve Him but, nevertheless, we see great encouragement to do so.
            1. If we are to be saved, we must “come unto” Him - Acts 2:40; Hebrews 5:9.
2. IT IMPLIES SOMETHING TO TAKE
   A. Jesus said, “Take my yoke” - Matthew 11:29.
      1. Jesus has the “yoke” of service in mind here.
      2. He is not promising an easy life as a Christian.
         A. A life of service to the Master is being set forth.
         B. What we are seeing is Jesus speaking of others sharing in the labors of the Master.
            1. For example, Jesus came to seek and save the lost - Luke 19:10.
               A. We have a commission to go to all the world and attempt to teach them so that they might be saved - Mark 16:15, 16.
               B. Servitude to the Lord is taught quite often within the Scriptures - Luke 17:6-10; 1 Corinthians 7:22; Ephesians 6:5, 6.
            1. Therefore, as a part of coming unto the Lord we take upon ourselves the obligation to work within the kingdom of God.
      D. In looking at this though, it must not be overlooked that there is an exchange process involved in all of it.
3. IT IMPLIES SOMETHING TO LEAVE
   A. Although not specifically mentioned, those who take upon themselves the yoke of the Lord have left certain things behind in order to do so.
      1. We have left our sin, along with all earthly desires, behind - Philippians 3:13; Romans 6:16, 17.
      2. We no longer wish to be a part of the world because of its destructive nature - 1 John 2:15-17.
      3. We set our affections on things above - Colossians 3:1, 2.
4. We put to death those things which result in the wrath of God being upon us - Colossians 3:5, 6.
5. IT IMPLIES SOMETHING TO LEARN
   A. We learn of the “meekness” of the Lord - Matthew 11:29.
      1. The word “meekness” refers to an inward quality.
      B. We learn of his “lowly heart” - Matthew 11:29.
         1. This “lowliness of heart” is in reference to others.
         2. We find a corresponding passage to this in Philippians 2:8.
            A. All of this relates to Jesus being the pattern of humility to the human race.

5. IT IMPLIES REST FOR THE SOUL
   A. “Ye shall find rest” - Matthew 11:29.
      1. In study of this “call,” we see that the “rest” of Christ is twofold - given and found.
      2. Jesus says that He will give rest and that the one who seeks it shall obtain it.
   B. This rest, of course, deals with the forgiveness of sins.
      1. We are not in a discussion of physical rest.
   C. This concept is taken from Jeremiah 6:16 where we see the promise to those who would ask for the old paths and walk therein would “find rest.”
      1. Those who are wearied by sin are refreshed by the Savior.

CONCLUSION:
1. In this “call of the Master” so much is found.
   A. Let us heed what is said, so as to “find” the “rest” God would have us to have in this life and in the end - Matthew 11:29; Revelation 14:13.
A CHRISTIAN IS A CHILD OF GOD - The first characteristic that we see from the Scriptures is that the true Christian is a child of God. Believers have, according to John, the power to become the sons of God (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1, 2). The thought here is that one, whether male or female, who becomes a Christian is a child of God. God is pictured within the New Testament as being the Father of the righteous (Matthew 6:9). In view of this, we should seek daily to live like a child of God.

A CHRISTIAN IS A HEIR OF GOD - The second characteristic that we see is that the true New Testament Christian is an heir of God. According to the Apostle Paul, we are heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16, 17). Since we are joint heirs with Christ, we must share in His sufferings, and when we do so we will also share in all of his glory.

As children and heirs of God we are above servants. We are no longer bond-servants as were the Jews (Galatians 4:6, 7). As children and heirs of God all blessing that come from God for His children are ours (1 Corinthians 3:22, 23; Ephesians 1:3).

ROYAL PRIESTS - The third characteristic that we see is that Christians are royal priests. We are, according to the Apostle Peter, a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). According to the Apostle John, we are kings and priests unto God (Revelation 1:6). As kings and priests we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). This is in stark contrast to the bloody sacrifices offered under the Jewish system.

INTERCESSIONS - The fourth characteristic that we note is that the Christian serves in the capacity of being an intercessor. Along with supplications (prayers on our own behalf), thanksgivings, and other prayers, we are to offer up prayers of intercession on behalf of all men (1 Timothy 2:1, 2). As Christians we are to offer up prayers on behalf of our fellow Christians (Ephesians 6:18, 19).

SOLDIERS - The fifth characteristic that we see is that as Christians we are seen by God as being soldiers. We may not always look at ourselves in this way, but that does not change the fact that we are soldiers in the “army of God.” As soldiers we are to endure the hardships that are associated with being such (2 Timothy 2:3). As soldiers we must war a good warfare (1 Timothy 1:18). As soldiers of the Lord we must put on the whole armor of God in order to be protected as we go forth into battle (Ephesians 6:13-17).

TEMPLE - The sixth characteristic that we note is that Christians serve as the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). As the temple the Spirit dwells in us through the written word of God that has been given by the Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). As the dwelling place of the Spirit we need to keep ourselves holy and undefiled (1 Corinthians 3:17).

INSTRUMENT - The seventh characteristic that we see is that as Christians we are to yield our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:13). Each of us, as Christians, are vessels or instruments in the hand of God (2 Timothy 2:20, 21).

NEW CREATURES - The eighth and final characteristic that we note is that we are to be new creatures in God’s kingdom. Our entire life has been changed by our putting on Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). In view of this change we recognize the fact that we are to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

Let us seek to fulfill these characteristic in our lives as we not only profess to be Christians, but we live like we are.