

Come, Take, Learn

Can you imagine how frustrated Jesus must have felt when the very people who ought to have recognized and welcomed Him stubbornly refused? Nevertheless, He continued offering salvation to those humble enough to accept it.

“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” (Matthew 11:28-29).

This beautiful invitation has three imperatives. The first is **“come.”** While He was on earth in the flesh people could physically come to Him, but even then (as now) coming to Jesus required faith and obedience. Those who bore heavy burdens of sin and trials found rest in Him. That is still the case.

Then Jesus said, **“Take.”** Take My yoke upon you. A yoke is an instrument of service such as oxen would wear to pull a plow or cart. Yes, we must serve our Savior. But whereas an ox yoke might gall and chafe the animal’s neck or shoulder, Jesus’ yoke is “easy” (v. 30). Serving Him brings delight in contrast to the crushing misery of sin.

Finally, Jesus said, **“Learn.”** We cannot know how to serve Him and enjoy rest unless we learn from Him. We learn from what He taught as we read through the gospels. In the same way we learn from what He did as we observe His mercy, His obedience, His power, His faith, His suffering, His anger, His patience (and you can extend that list indefinitely).

Come. Take. Learn. Those three simple steps form a good summary of what discipleship involves. His invitation is for you. Will you accept it?

Strangers in Your Country

There is a popular meme circulating on social media that depicts a passage from the “Good News Translation” of the bible. The highlighted section comes from the book of Deuteronomy 28:43-44. In short, the verses warn that foreigners who live in your land will take over and be your rulers.

Most of us are aware of the serious migration problem at our Southern border, and it seems that this graphic is aimed at making a political statement concerning this issue. Even though the principle itself could be true, this is a flagrant misuse of scripture; and for those unfamiliar with the biblical story it can be very misleading.

First, these verses come from a warning and a curse to God’s people for their disobedience. The very next verse says that this invasion has happened *“because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart.”* So, if we’re going to make modern day application, then the cause of our present “migration invasion” is due to our own unfaithfulness to the Lord.

Second, the reading comes from the Old Testament Law, the law that God used to govern the nation of Israel, and is not applicable to the United States today. The USA is not God’s chosen nation as Israel was.

We must be very, very careful when sharing religious information, especially in a public forum like social media. As seen in this case, we could be misusing the scriptures and teaching unbelievers things that are untrue.

--Jay Launius (Maud, TX) – adapted

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*Don’t let compliments go to your head
Or criticisms to your heart.*

I Know Something Good About You

Wouldn’t this old world be better

If the folks we met would say,

“I know something good about you!”

And then treat us just that way?

Wouldn’t it be fine and dandy,

If each handclasp, warm and true,

Carried with it this assurance,

“I know something good about you?”

Wouldn’t life be lots more happy,

If the good that’s in us all

Were the only thing about us

That folks bothered to recall?

Wouldn’t it be nice to practice

That fine way of thinking, too;

You know something good about me;

I know something good about you?

--(unknown) via *Bulletin Gold*