

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are great, O God, & greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, & our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, & serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces & calling to one another, ¹⁷“We played the flute for you, & you did not dance; we wailed, & you did not mourn.” ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, & they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating & drinking, & they say, ‘Look, a glutton & a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors & sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” ²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven & earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise & the intelligent & have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; & no one knows the Son except the Father, & no one knows the Father except the Son & anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary & are carrying heavy burdens, & I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, & learn from me; for I am gentle & humble in heart, & you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, & my burden is light.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son & Holy Spirit*

1. From where does wisdom come? See *Job 28:20-28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7, 8:1-36 esp. vv22-23; Sirach 1:11-20* (yes, Lutherans can read the Apocrypha, too)
2. Who are these children of wisdom (v24)? Note other translations read “children” in v24; cf. *Luke 7:35. See 1 Corinthians 1:17-31; James 3:13*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. One reason Jesus’ rest (v28) eludes us is, that like our electronic devices, we’re always on; what would happen if you made some “e-free” times & spaces for prayer, scripture, your spouse, etc.? Try it for 30 days & see if you find rest. See *Matthew 14:13; John 6:1, 15*
4. Not very long ago only “important” people were “always on;” now all of us are “important,” too. How does our new found pride conflict with Jesus’ invitation (vv28-30, esp., v28)? See *Isaiah 2:12; Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 3:34, 9:12, 21:24; Luke 1:48-53, 18:44; James 4:6-10*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Particularly in medicine the world is increasingly unconvinced by the Church’s moral wisdom; what happens when the sanctity of **all** human life is reduced to the quality of life? Who gets to decide if your life has proper quality? See *Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13-16, Matthew 10:28-31, Luke 12:4-7*
6. The children of the world complain (vv16-17) that John the Baptizer (*Matthew 3:1-12*) & Jesus didn’t “dance to the their tune” (v18); what are some characteristic ways the Church (and your congregation & you) stay “out of step” for the sake of neighbors & their needs in the world? See *Luke 10:25-42*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Take my yoke upon you, & learn from me; for I am gentle & humble in heart, & you will find rest for your souls. (v29)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven & earth; you have revealed these things to infants.. (*Matthew 11:25*)

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