

Come with Jesus and Get Some Rest

- I. Jesus understands our need for physical rest.
- II. Only Jesus can provide real rest for our souls.

Dear Christian friends,

Do you have some favorite family vacation MEMORIES? **Maybe** it was a trip OUT WEST or to a cottage up north. Maybe it was going to Disney World – the **Grand Canyon** – or just sitting around a campfire. WHATEVER it was it was good to GET AWAY for a while.

Imagine hearing Jesus say, “Come with Me to a quiet place and get some rest.” Jesus wasn’t planning on going to a water park or an **all-inclusive resort**. He was thinking more or a **“deserted – secluded”** place OUT IN THE MIDDLE of nowhere. The purpose was to **“get away”** but NOT **“get away”** from Jesus. On a vacation – on a **trip** – do you take along your Bible so you can still have your daily devotion? Do you make sure you make it to church – or do you tell yourself, “It’s VACATION – when we get back home we’ll **get back** to church”? That may be the MORE COMMON attitude but is it really right?

Today Jesus invites you and me, **“Come with Me ...and get some rest.”** Looking closer at these verses **we see** that 1)Jesus understands our need for **physical** rest and that 2)only Jesus can provide real rest for our souls.

I. Jesus understands our need for physical rest.

These verses pick up on **last week’s** gospel reading. There we heard, **“Jesus sent out (the apostles) two by two. They went and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”** We’re not told HOW LONG they were gone – WHERE they all went – or how much success they had. It’s just simply, **“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught.”**

They weren’t telling Jesus ANYTHING NEW but it was still good for them to **“report back”** to Jesus. That gave them an opportunity to REVIEW and LEARN from their experiences. **We humans** can be so fickle. We FOCUS on the negative – what’s **wrong**. By reviewing it ALL with Jesus they could also see the good – the **positive** – the WHOLE picture.

“Reporting back” was also a big lesson on “I’M RESPONSIBLE to Jesus for my service” – my life. We heard in the epistle reading, **“Obey your leaders. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.”** One day I’ll have to **“report”** to Jesus on my ministry to you here at St. John’s.

The apostles had been busy – SO TOO Jesus! While the apostles were reporting in there were “so many people coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat.” PERHAPS with some frustration and exasperation Jesus said to the apostles, **“Come with Me ...to a quiet place and get some rest.”** What can we learn here that APPLIES to our Christian lives **even if** we’re not in the public ministry of God’s Word?

1)How do you view your job? Is it just that – **a job** – what you do to make money so you can feed your family – pay your bills – maybe take a vacation? **How** is that attitude ANY DIFFERENT from an **unbeliever’s**?

We are Christians – Christians ALSO AT our jobs. We take Jesus with us to work. We don’t leave Jesus behind when we PUNCH the **time clock** or head out to the barn. **As Christians** we see our jobs as ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY for us to serve and glorify our God. **As Christians** our job is to BE

MORE ABOUT our God than about the money we make. It's an opportunity to glorify our **God** by taking care of our **families** and helping our **neighbors**.

2)As Christians we see work as a BLESSING but work is NOT EVERYTHING. We need rest too. We need a break. There's NOTHING WRONG with time away – time **off**. Jesus understands our need for **physical** rest. God made us people not robots.

So we hear the call, **“Come with Me ...and get some rest.”** But again note – this is a getting away WITH Jesus **not from** Jesus. JUST AS we don't leave Jesus at home when we **go to work** – so we don't leave Jesus at home when we **go on vacation**. We're Christians – AT CHURCH – at home – at work – AND on vacation.

“So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.” They're heading east ALONG the **north shore** of the Sea of Galilee. There's a NICE **“deserted”** LONELY place – a perfect place for some **peace and quiet**. **“But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot ...and got there ahead of them.”**

II. Only Jesus can provide real rest for our souls.

Jesus and the apostles may have been trying to get away from the crowds to have some time BY THEMSELVES. But let's give these people some credit. They were determined to be with Jesus. They see Jesus take off. But their attitude was not, “We can catch Him NEXT TIME He's in town.” They didn't MAKE EXCUSES either. “I can't follow Him now. That's TOO FAR **out of the way**. Besides I've got work to do at home. It won't get done if I **spend time traipsing all over** the place.” There were all kinds of GOOD SOUNDING excuses that made sense from them to **stay put**. But they didn't let any of that STOP them. **“They ran on foot”** just to be with Jesus! Would YOU **“run on foot”** 8 miles or so just to go to church? That sure tells you something about THEIR PRIORITIES!

How important is it FOR YOU to spend time with Jesus? **How important** is it FOR YOU to come to church – to have those **daily devotions** – to pray more than a **quickly rattled** off “Come, Lord Jesus” or “Now I lay me down to sleep”? **How important** is a solid Christian education for your children – for YOURSELF? Look at your LIFE – your SCHEDULE – for you answer. It's easy enough to SAY it's **very important** for us to spend time with Jesus. It's a lot harder to ACTUALLY DO that. We may have to adjust our **schedules** – rearrange some **things** – turn off the **TV, phone**, etc. – so we HAVE TIME for that **devotion** – those **prayers** – for **church** – for **Bible class**.

Spending time with Jesus **becomes** a PRIORITY when we realize how much we NEED Jesus. AS MUCH AS we need rest for our **bodies** ALL THE MORE we need rest for our **souls**. ONLY JESUS can provide real rest for our souls.

Our jobs can make us some money so we can pay our bills and buy some **nice things** but our HARD WORK will never make peace between God and us. Money can't buy the forgiveness of a **single sin**. Pictures and stories of **vacations** and **trips up north** can be WONDERFUL TO SHARE **at a funeral** but they'll never provide the REAL COMFORT of “the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” Getting away for a while **can refresh** us but we but we still come back to the OLD ROUTINE and PRESSURES and **problems**. Where will we find the strength to HANDLE life's ups and downs? ONLY WITH JESUS!

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things.” Let Jesus teach you and provide REAL rest for your soul!

Be prepared – Jesus is BLUNT with us about the ugly reality of our sin and guilt and the **eternal damnation** we deserved. We are born sinful. We can't even make it past the very first commandment – that we LOVE GOD MORE than **anything else** – including more than our **personal comfort** – our

money – our jobs – our **lives!** God is to ALWAYS come first in every area of our lives. Anything less than **absolutely** PERFECT love and obedience is simply unacceptable to God. God does not accept ANY EXCUSES. Oh, and don't think of sin as JUST A MISTAKE or **poor choice**. Sin is an act of rebellion and defiance of God's authority over us. **Hell** is REAL and God really does send people to hell. WE should really be condemned to hell's **eternal banishment** and punishment. The TRUTH about our sin is devastating but we must face up to it to REALLY understand and **appreciate** the gospel.

Listen to Jesus and let Him teach you about the **"compassion"** – the grace - of our God. SAVOR anew those familiar facts of the gospel! God took it upon Himself to **save us** from death and hell. Jesus – the eternal Son of God **born one** of us – is **"the great Shepherd of the sheep"** who came to **"seek and to save that which was lost."** Listen to Jesus say, **"Come unto Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** So we come to Jesus with an HONEST CONFESSION of our sin and guilt – and we hear Him say, **"Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you."** Listen to Jesus EXPLAIN how He **"laid down His life"** on the cross all to **"take away the sin of the world."** Listen to Jesus assure you that **"His blood"** – the blood of God's own Son – **"cleanses us from ALL sin."** Let Jesus show you His BLOODY cross and EMPTY grave and hear Him promise you, **"My sheep listen to My voice. I know them, they follow Me, and I give them eternal life. They shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand."** WHAT PEACE – what REST – forgiveness full and free because Jesus paid for all our sins on His cross. WHAT PEACE and REST – Jesus clothes us with His own perfect life – God really does love us. WHAT PROMISES Jesus **has made** us – to be with us always – to hear and answer all our prayers – to provide for all our needs – to work all things for our eternal good – that we **"will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."** ONLY JESUS can make and keep promises like those. Trusting in Jesus WHAT REST for our **souls** – WHAT PEACE for our **lives!**

"Come with Me ...and get some rest." We do that every week in church. We **do that every time** we come to Holy Communion. We **do that as we have** those daily devotions at home. WHAT BLESSINGS – what rest – as we get away WITH JESUS! Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED