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Week 3: COME, TAKE, AND LEARN

Matthew 11:28-30 (RSV) Jesus said "COME to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. TAKE My yoke upon you and LEARN from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will FIND rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

Over the centuries much has been spoken on the subject of grace. Yet perhaps nothing is as hard to explain as God's grace. It doesn't seem to make sense. It doesn't seem fair. It can't possibly cover over what I've done. The best way--perhaps the only real way--to understand it is to experience it...or let me say it more accurately: to experience Him, because Grace is a person - Jesus. Today I want you to move toward an understanding of grace that's bigger than your mistakes, your failures, and your seemingly impossible situations.

- 1. Grace allows me to come to _____.**
Isaiah 40:29-31; Matthew 6:6; Ephesians 1:19-20
- 2. Grace allows me to give up _____.**
Matthew 11:29-30; Galatians 2:20; Psalm 55:22
- 3. The battle takes place in your _____.**
Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 6:12
- 4. The battle is won by _____ that it's all about _____ obedience.**
2 Corinthians 10:4-5; 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 5. Rest on the pillars of God's _____.**
Isaiah 41:10; John 8:32

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Were you taught any prayers as a child? What was one of the earliest ones you can recall?
2. Did you grow up in an openly "religious" home? Or was religion a private matter, unseen by you until later years?

Ponderings:

3. What does Jesus mean by taking up His "yoke"? What does He mean by the "rest" that He promises to those who do take up His yoke? (Matthew 11)
4. In what way does grace make it possible for me to come to Jesus? (Matthew 11)

Promptings:

5. Is Jesus' yoke resting lightly on you, or are you struggling to get out from under it? How does taking up His way lead to rest?
6. If you are a self-made person who likes to see everyone pay their own way, how does this Gospel of undeserved grace strike you?
7. Why must I give up control in order to embrace grace?
8. How does our thinking affect our relationship with Christ? In what specific ways has your thought life impacted your relationship with Jesus?
9. What battles are you fighting in your mind right now that might be hindering your peace and rest?
10. How do we gain victory over our thought life?
11. How do the promises of God bring rest to our lives? What promise are you hanging onto in the midst of uncertain times?