

# Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

BY JAN BRUNETTE



[Jesus said], “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, 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” (Matthew 11:28–30 NIV).

**A**waking early one morning, a song came to mind. The words caused tears to well up in my eyes, for they expressed what I had been feeling for days:

“Come unto Me, ye weary,  
And I will give you rest.”  
O blessed voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to hearts oppressed!  
It tells of benediction,  
Of pardon, grace, and peace,  
Of joy that hath no ending,  
Of love that cannot cease.\*

Those days had been stressful, not because of struggles with family or friends, health issues, or work load. Rather, it was the result of a burden deep in my heart for those still lost in this world — those needing the pardon, grace, and peace of a loving, precious Savior.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear Father in heaven, open my eyes to the love You possess for all, and open my heart to learn how I can desire the best for others — both those known and unknown. May the grace of Jesus ever shine through me as I reflect that love to others in Your chosen way and time. Amen.

Burdens can be the result of many causes and take on many forms. Whether financial troubles, health issues, or family crises, the cry for rest looms deep within. Grounded deep in our soul may be the loving desire to grow in our faith or concern for those yet unseen. It may even be for the salvation of a loved one who has yet to know the only hope of eternity, Jesus, the Savior of souls.

These verses can give our souls comfort and strength when overcome with weariness of heart. List key words that help us understand the source of that power.

**Isaiah 40:28–30** \_\_\_\_\_

**Isaiah 50:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Jeremiah 20:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 12:1–3** \_\_\_\_\_

“Come unto Me, ye wand’ers,  
And I will give you light.”  
O loving voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to cheer the night!  
Our hearts were filled with sadness,  
And we had lost our way;  
But Thou hast brought us gladness  
And songs at break of day.\*

Traveling through this journey called life, we often feel estranged and uncomfortably unfit. We forget we are not to expect otherwise. Peter reminds us of that in **1 Peter 2:9–10**. \_\_\_\_\_

Christ blessed us with the knowledge that we are not of this world; we are His, designed for a purpose. We belong to a kingdom that far exceeds any earthly possession or physical satisfaction. Refer to **John 15:15–19** and **John 18:36** to share why that is true. \_\_\_\_\_

How can Paul's words in **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** be used to "give us light" and "cheer the night"? \_\_\_\_\_

Knowing that we have been chosen to serve God in His kingdom, how can this best be done?

**Isaiah 41: 8-10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 14:17-19** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 2:10** \_\_\_\_\_

"Come unto Me, ye fainting,  
And I will give you life."  
O cheering voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to aid our strife!  
The foe is stern and eager,  
The fight is fierce and long;  
But Thou hast made us mighty  
And stronger than the strong.\*

Discouragement is one of Satan's greatest tools in holding us back from freedom in Christ. While we want to resist those feelings — physically and emotionally — we struggle with how to replace them with His joy and peace.

What had Paul learned in **Philippians 3:8b-11**? \_\_\_\_\_

God's amazing Word reminds us that He is carrying the heaviest part of the yoke. Because of that, we can rest in the knowledge that, in His time and way, He will use it for His glory and to reveal His goodness to us.

In **1 Peter 5:6-11**, Peter reminds us of that freedom and reveals God's goodness as He gently cares for us. Discover the things that God alone can, and does, do.

There are also things that we do. List those things, always humbly acknowledging that it is His grace, through Word and Sacrament, that grants power to overcome.

Through the cross and His resurrection, Christ conquered Satan and his power over us. He also provided the Holy Spirit to remind us how we can rely on the might and strength of God to fight the fierce and long battle. And at the proper time, He will help us resist the devil and give us the firm faith we need to stand, just as Martin Luther states in His victory song, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God":

This world's prince may still  
Scowl fierce as he will.  
He can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done;  
One little word can fell him.\*\*

With that victory in mind, we hear the comforting words of Jesus:

"And whosoever cometh,  
I will not cast him out."  
O patient love of Jesus,  
Which drives away our doubt,  
Which, though we be unworthy  
Of love so great and free,  
Invites us very sinners  
To come, dear Lord to Thee!\*

Acceptance! Acceptance is what He offers and what He gives freely. No matter the length of time, the doubts that plague us, or how unworthy we may feel, His love conquers all! He calls aloud to all: *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock ... To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne* (Revelation 3:20-21 NIV).

Our grief, our burdens, and our weariness were placed on Christ crucified. In return, He desires that we embrace His Word daily, simply out of love for Him. His righteousness, peace, and joy become ours. And even though burdened with life and feeling weary from it, He will not let us suffer, even one moment, more than we can bear.

**Closing Prayer:** Father in heaven, thank You for granting me the freedom to cast all my cares upon Jesus, who carried those concerns to the cross. Even in my weariness, You use Your grace to guide me gently through the steps of being lifted higher for You. Open my eyes to all that Jesus did in releasing me from the burdens that He bore. In Jesus' name and for His sake, I ask this. Amen.

**Closing Hymn:** Sing or say together one or more verses of either hymn above.

\**LSB* 684, verses 1-4; *LW* 345; *TLH* 276; Text and music: Public domain

\*\**LSB* 656, verse 3; Text and music: Public domain

This Bible study can be used with Jan Brunette's article, "For Me to Live is Christ," found on page 11 of this issue of *LWQ*.