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“Pastor Sheri’s Desk”

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“...Learn of Me...”

Matthew 11:29

From whom are we learning? This has been a hot button issue for the past year and a half. Since COVID we have acquired a relatively new term: *remote learning*. Most children have been taught from home via their computers. This has turned out to be less than ideal. Incidents of children suffering with anxiety and depression have been on the rise. These young students miss actually seeing their teacher’s face, not to mention those of their friends. And parents have found it difficult to juggle work and kids learning from home.

And if all of the above isn’t traumatic enough, now we must figure out who to listen to when it comes to the safety of children and teachers in going back to school all while wearing masks all day long. This is going to require finding someone worthy of trust, which makes the question, *‘From whom are we learning?’* a very pertinent question in our day. But believe it or not, this question is not just about things having to do with *remote learning* and COVID. Even more important than these issues, we must decide who will lead and guide us through our lives.

When you think about it, we can learn from *almost* anyone. The best thing some people teach us is what not to do by the way they live. We are wise if we don’t always have to learn by personal experience, but can learn by the experience of others. But whose example are we supposed to follow?

Jesus gives us the greatest invitation in **Matthew 11**. In verse 28 we find a very familiar passage, *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Doesn’t that Scripture make you just breathe better? So, how do we find this rest that Jesus is offering? First of all, we must come to Him. P-E-R-I-O-D. We come to Him, not for what He gives, but for Who He is. Coming to Him *is* rest. Because when we truly come to Him in humility, (Mt. 5:3, *“Blessed are the **poor in spirit** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*) we *will* learn of Him. He has so much to teach us, and He is imminently qualified to do so because He created us therefore He understands our nature.

Learn of Me - in our quiet time. *Learn of Me* - by not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. *Learn of Me* - by placing ourselves under *the whole counsel of God*, no matter how unpalatable our current culture may find it. *Learn of Me* - because God commands it; because it is our responsibility to respond with obedience that brings honor to God. We need a humble desire to know the truth, and a temperament to be saved by it.

The Daily Briefing, August 13, 2021: The Bible will cut with hard truths that reveal our broken nature - Hebrews 4:12, NKJV, “*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart,*” - but the author of the Bible will heal you with His abounding grace - Jeremiah 17:14, NKJV, “*Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, For You are my praise.*”

The other day I heard a sad story about a Kindergartener. She had looked so forward to the day when she would be starting school. But as you can guess she was stuck at home sitting at a computer-remote learning. One day her little heart had about as much as it could take. She came running to her mother’s arms crying, “*I don’t even know what my teacher looks like!*” It proved very difficult for her to be able to clearly see her teacher, via Zoom-as she was so far away and wearing a mask.

*But what about us?
Do we know what our Teacher looks like?
Are we close enough to our Teacher to see His face?
To learn of Him?*

Psalm 105:4, NKJV
Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

This is so much better than attempting our own spiritually ‘remote learning’!

Jeremiah 32:33, NKJV
And they have turned to Me the back, and not the face; though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction.

We have such a beautiful blessing ahead of us when we learn of Him and when we set our hearts to seek His face. And He isn’t ever going to be wearing a mask! HALLELUJAH!

Numbers 6:24-26 –
The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make **His face shine on you**
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn **His face toward you**
and give you peace.