

## I. Introduction.

**Matthew 11:28:30** | <sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

- A. This passage of Scripture is probably one of the most comforting in all of the Bible. On a person level, I find myself coming back to these words of Jesus, and similar passages like it, to reorient myself with what He’s really like in His heart of hearts. The more I think long about what Jesus said He was like, the more peaceful my heart becomes.
- B. Tonight, we’re going to break down a few key truths contained in these short three verses.

## II. “I will give you rest.”

- A. Before we start anywhere else, I want to start with the notion that it’s in God’s heart that we would experience a restful, or peaceful, relationship with Him. Jesus wants us to have a friendly relationship that is relaxed and casual. He doesn’t want us to constantly be unsure of our relationship so that we stay nervous and do things for Him out of fear. He doesn’t want us always wondering where we’re at with Him. He just wants us to experience the rest that comes from knowing He values us and wants to be together.
- B. We all want friendships and relationships that are relaxed, not based on putting on an act all the time. Jesus says I’m that guy you can be with and you can just be with Me as you are.
- C. We will all get spiritually weary at some point. Perhaps you’re in a season of weariness now feeling like everything is so heavy and weighty that you can’t go on. There’s an answer for it...

## III. “Come to me.”

- A. The core message of the gospel, the heart of Christianity, is come to Me—a real actual person, Jesus. It’s not first and foremost, come to morals, rules or works. It’s “come to Me” and “get to know Me” and “spend time with Me so you actually know who I am and what I’m like.” Jesus died for a deep and authentic relationship with us, not just so we would do work for Him.
- B. This “come to Me” speaks of a devotional life, but not just a check-the-box devotional life. It speaks of a devotional life that is deeply rooted in the rich understanding that Jesus wants to be with us. It’s also a devotional life rooted in the knowledge that Jesus wants to be with us when we’re spiritually weary, burdened, broken and burnt-out. He wants us to come to Him in that condition. He doesn’t want us to try to fake it or “get cleaned up” before we come to Him. He wants us talking to Him in our worst moments and our difficult times. When we do, it creates depth of relationship with one another—when we can turn to Him in prayer when we’re struggling.

## IV. “Learn from Me.”

- A. Jesus described Himself as humble and gentle, which is truly remarkable. He didn’t say that we should learn from Him because He’s all-knowing and all-wise, but because His heart is meek and lowly.
- B. In other words, He wants us to know that He is the relaxed environment we need to recharge. We don’t have to unplug from daily life only to fear the prayer closet because we feel like we will need to work ourselves up into a frenzy of prayer. No, we can go and be with a lowly Man who is God and just quietly listen and be taught what we need in order to break through.
- C. We’re presented with unlimited resources today via technology. See many turn to all the great speakers on the Internet instead of Jesus. This is a huge mistake. We need to learn from people, and read their books, etc. (That’s really important actually!) But of far more importance is coming to Jesus Himself and learning directly from Him through His Word, the Scriptures, by the Spirit.

## V. “You will find rest for your souls.”

- A. Jesus’ easy yoke and light burden isn’t a promise of an easy life—it’s a promise of walking through life with Him in such a way that the unnecessary burdens and difficulties are replaced with the knowledge of Christ’s tender and loving meekness. It’s a promise of inward peace—even during the trials of life.
- B. When we understand that Jesus is humble, and can see it in His eyes and know it about His heart, we tend toward emulating it more. And a humble man or woman receives grace and help and the fresh winds of the Spirit that keep us going with enthusiasm.

*Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document during service gets \$1.*

### Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for January 26, 2018

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** The GPHOP will be hosting a special event a month from now on February 23-24. Chris Berglund, a senior leader in Lou Engle's ministry, and Phil Schneider, Nancy Schneider's son and Illinois District Superintendent for the Assemblies of God, will both be with us. Sessions will be Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Chris will speak during Friday Encounter Night on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and at 2 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Phil will speak at 9 a.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The gathering is free of charge—donations are always welcome.
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandykistner@yahoo.com if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School, Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Amy Dirks** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who are beginning a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
6. **Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), Garage Thinkers kingdom entrepreneurialism class (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
7. We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
8. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
9. **Giving:** The prayer room budget is approximately \$3,000 per month. If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. There is a large fellowship area downstairs if you would like to talk at length.*