

I. Introduction:

- A. I can think of no better way to start the new year than to place a renewed focus on Christ. Tonight, let's answer the invitation to "Come to me."

II. Tonight's text in focus:

Matthew 11:28-30 | ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

III. "Come to Me" ... "learn from Me":

- A. The idea here is to come to the real Jesus.
1. In other words, take the time to "come to Me" over and over so you learn what I'm really like over time.
 2. Also, when you learn what I'm really like, your relationship with me will not be a burden, but life-giving and peaceful. This doesn't mean life will be easy, but that we can approach the storms and hardships of life in a different way—with inward fortitude and clearer perspective.

IV. "I am gentle and humble in heart":

- A. Jesus gives us a staggering statement here.
- B. Imagine talking to someone with literally zero pride, only humility. Imagine talking to someone with literally zero harshness of spirit, only gentleness. That person is Jesus. He is far better than we imagine.
- C. It really is something else to hear God describe Himself as humble and gentle. Any other king would say, "Come to me; I'm powerful and influential." They might even say, "Come to me; I'm rich and famous." Only Jesus would say what He did.

V. The divine progression of sanctification:

- A. Coming: We come to Jesus as a lifestyle (i.e., abiding).
- B. Learning: We learn His character and His words; our desire to obey increases because we begin to know Him and cherish Him.
- C. Transforming: We change and grow in sanctification as we continue to grow in the knowledge and obedience of Christ.
- D. Responding: We respond to life, people and situations like Jesus would. We react less, and respond more.

VI. Treating others well:

- A. The more I understand that God is gentle and humble toward me, the more it helps me to be gentle and humble toward others. The fact is, though, that He got an A+ on His scorecard of treatment of others. You and I need to aspire to be like Jesus toward others, but humbly admit when we fail and sin against others. I'm quite often not humble and gentle in my interactions toward others and so I must apologize and repent when I fall short.
- B. Purpose to have humble and gentle:
- thoughts of yourself, thoughts of others
 - prayers/words for yourself, prayers/words for others
- C. The world operates in such a proud and harsh spirit. When a Christian is proud and harsh, it does not represent Christ well, and the world remains more or less unmoved by whatever is being spoken. As believers, we must have a different spirit (i.e., Caleb, Numbers 14:24). We must purpose to have a humble and gentle spirit while we proclaim the gospel, teach truth, love our neighbor and do the works of the kingdom in whatever specific way God has gifted us and commissioned us.
- D. Let's pray together that we could be more like the humble and gentle one.

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

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for January 5, 2024.

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 any of the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the Gathering Grounds area downstairs, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We currently host evening prayer from 7-8 p.m. seven nights a week. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 7-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each week featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **General Announcements:**
 - **Central Illinois School of Prayer:** Our Winter 2024 mini-mester will be announced shortly. More information at gphop.org/school.
 - **Upcoming events:** We are hosting a special two-night gathering Saturday, May 4 - Sunday, May 5.
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 on 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 mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionary friends in prayer as well as be considerate of their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Nepal); **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO) **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO); **Kerusso Perhay** (Pioneer 61; Mozambique); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Bethany Global University; Bloomington, MN); **Alicia Wright** (ACTS, India); **Austin and Amy Zhu** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO).
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, stationed in Fort Johnson in Vernon Parish, Louisiana. **Kyle Nix**, stationed in Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane County, Washington.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), TikTok, 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.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray? Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email info@gphop.org if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to Xfinity if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for someone or something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
10. **Giving:** 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 Friday 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 or our website (gphop.org/donate) 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. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*