**Sermon Title: The Invitation of a Lifetime**

**Sermon Text: Matthew 11:25-30**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to respond and reflect their response to the invitation of a lifetime.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 7 aspects of the invitation of a lifetime.**

**Introduction:** Quote Charles H. Spurgeon, “Here is a gracious invitation of the gospel in which the Savior’s tears and smiles are blended, as in a covenant rainbow of promise.”

[**The Spurgeon Study Bible; Christian Standard Bible; 2017; p.128**]

Yet an invitation is only as valid, important, and transforming as the person who extends the invitation.

**I. The clarification of the invitation. V.25**

 There is an air of sarcasm in these words, as the Jewish leaders are ironically identified as wise and prudent and the followers of Christ as the infants (**Matthew 18:3-10**) … yet God has revealed to those followers the truth of the gospel. (**Matthew 13:10-17**)

**II. The claim of the invitation. V.26-27**

 This is a clear and powerful claim by Jesus of the Sovereignty of God the Father, over the affairs of men, Jesus also attributes the Sovereignty of rulership to Himself in verse 27.

 **Matthew 16:16-17** Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

 **John 6:37** "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

 **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**III. The call of the invitation. V.28a**

 This verse is reflective of (**Matthew 5:3**). In this passage we find an open invitation to all who hears…yet proclaimed in such a way that the only ones who will respond to the invitation are those who realize their spiritual bankruptcy and the right of trying to save themselves by keeping the law.

 The spiritual blindness and deadness of humanity outside of Christ is absolute. Without the life giving power of God, no sinner can be awakened.

 **Ephesians 2:1-6** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

 **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me,`Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** "Many will say to Me in that day,`Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' **23** "And then I will declare to them, `I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

**IV. The comfort of the invitation. V.28b**

 By responding to the invitation, by faith, we find rest from the endless, fruitless effort to save ourselves by works of the **flesh**, **law**, and **good deeds**, or **human morality**. Christ offers a permanent freedom, in the grace of God which are apart from works and these other fruitless efforts.

**V. The charge of the invitation. V.29a**

 The yoke symbolizes submission and slavery. We are to copy Christ’s life, reflected by our obedience.

 A. What Christ is not talking about!

 **John 14:21-24** "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" **23** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. **24** "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

 **John 15:10-11** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. **11** "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. **12** "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** "Greater love has no one than this, thanto lay down one's life for his friends. **14** "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

 B. What Christ is talking about!

 1. The yoke of self-righteousness.

 **Romans 7:23-25** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** I thank God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

 2. The yoke of tradition. (**Philippians 3:1-9**)

 3. The yoke of the Pharisees. (**Matthew 12:2; 15:2**)

 **Matthew 23:13-16** "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. **14** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. **15** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. **16** "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, `Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged *to perform it*.'

 4. The yoke of a false gospel.

 **Galatians 1:6-7** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, **7** which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

 5. The yoke of the curse of the law.

 **Galatians 3:10** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

 C. What Christ offers in the yoke is learning.

 To learn (mathete) from Him is to be His disciple (mathetes). (**Luke 10:39-42**)

 **Luke 6:46-48** "But why do you call Me`Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? **47** "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: **48** "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

**VI. The compassion of the invitation. V.29b**

 Charles H. Spurgeon helps us again saying, “Come to me is thus a divine prescription, curing our (spiritual) ills by the pardon of our sins through our Lord’s sacrifice and causing us the greatest peace by sanctifying us for service.” [**Ibid. p.1298**]

**VII. The care of the invitation. V.30**

 Jesus teachings and deliverance provides an easy yoke in contrast to the heavy and suppressive yoke of rabbinic teaching. (**Matthew 5:13-16**)