

30 DAYS IN THE BIBLE

Click [here](#) to read Matthew 11

Key Verse – Matthew 11:28–30

To quote a favourite old comedy movie of mine, “Life is pain, and we have to scrape the joy out of it every chance we get.” It’s humorous in context, but oddly, and soberingly, true in my relatively short experience. Life is never short on challenges – roadblocks, disappointments, failure. We see in Genesis, in a response to Adam and Eve’s sin, God curses Eve to physical pain and mental hardship, and Adam to a life of exhaustion, struggle, and toiling away for survival. It became, and largely still is, an ever-present, undeniable reality of our lives. Things will always be hard, and success will always come hard. It was no different for the Jews. The Law was a weight upon their minds and hearts that never really left them. There was always this overarching pressure to not mess up. They had to fulfill so many requirements and meet so many standards, and their religious leaders were especially vigilant at this point in history. The priests, especially those of the Pharisaical order, were very concerned with upholding exceptionally high standards in an effort to set the Jews, and perhaps most importantly themselves, apart from their Roman overlords. In this passage, Jesus has just prayed, thanking God for entrusting the responsibility of proclaiming the Kingdom to Him, and saying that He is the avenue through which people must go if they wish to truly know God. This invitation takes on even greater weight when viewed in that context.



For all of Israel's history, the way to God was found in strict adherence to the Law. It was difficult, exhausting, and an impossible standard. Jesus effectively is telling people, "Hey, God made me the new and true pathway to knowing Him. And guess what, this way is going to be easier on you, if you let me teach you to do it my way." This is not to say that it's all going to be sunshine and rainbows from here on out. As we've already established, life just isn't that way. But Jesus is, in fact, saying that the standard is no longer impossible. We don't need to stress and strive, pining away in pious activity hoping that we manage to do good enough to win God's approval. Jesus just wants us to come to Him. We have to go to Him with our stuff, our disappointment, our shortcomings, our anger and sorrow and fatigue, and allow Him to teach us the way to rest in God. There will still be burdens for us to carry, but by God's grace, they are lighter than anything else we carried before.

What a gift this promise would have been to a Jewish person hearing this, and what a gift it is to us. Thank God today, that he is a gracious teacher, gently showing us how to operate in this new covenant. Praise Him for the rest He gives, and the holy yoke He lays upon us, so that we may co-labour with Him.

What Scripture can I meditate on today?

What did God speak to me today?

How can I respond in obedience?

How can I pray?