

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 11:28-30**.
- B. One poet, T.S. Eliot, closed out a long discourse about the U.S. and said when it is all said and done and that the U.S. is only a place for the archaeologist and his shovel, that "it was an asphalt road, and 1,000 lost golf balls" (T. S. Eliot).
- C. And I think he is right because in America we are sadly into speed, and pleasure. Speed is the asphalt road, and pleasure is the 1,000 golf balls.
- D. We are so inebriated with speed we can't stand to go 55 or 65mph; we want to get where we are going fast, so we can do it fast, and then get home fast. Not a day goes by that I don't have a tailgater as I drive.
- E. We live in an instant society. we have instant coffee, tea, milk, lust (TV) and materialism (the Lottery). We do things faster, but we don't do them any better! We know how to lengthen life, but not how to deepen it.
- F. I am also convinced that we are into the jacked-up, power-hungry, take it higher type lifestyle; and that this lifestyle has crept into the church.
- G. Now, in some ways I like the hurry, go, hustle bustle life because when I do that I don't have time to stop and think about where I'm going, how I'm going, and why I'm going.
- H. Friends and brethren, we need to slow down and learn the gait of Galilee. We need to come to the realization that hurry, worry, hustle bustle, jacked-up, power living is of the devil. That if we don't get a handle on hurry, hurry will handle us.

I. LESSONS FROM TH LIFE OF ELIJAH.

- A. In 1Kgs. 18 we read the story of a friend of mine who had a wonderful mountain top experience. He thought he had it made. What a successful campaign for God, and an overcoming of those who practice sin.
- B. But Jezebel wanted Elijah dead, and he went from the tops of excitement to the depths of depression. God then was to show him as to how he could find God.
- C. God was not in the storm (thunder, lightening, wind), or the earthquake, or the fire. But God was in the gentle blowing breeze (1Kgs. 19:1-12).
- D. We need to learn that God is not in the thunder, lightning and earthquake. He is not in power, jacked-up, take-it-higher living.

II. THE GAIT OF GALILEE.

- A. God is found in the One who walked in the gait of Galilee; Jesus Christ. And Jesus said to "Come unto Me..." (Mt. 11:28-30).
- B. When you come to Jesus you don't find significance, fruitfulness, dynamic discipleship, honor or prestige. Rather, you find rest and a yoke.
- C. REST.
That's right--rest! People who are too busy listening to the thunder, lightening, and earthquake never hear God when He preaches in the gentle breezes about rest.
 - 1. The problem with some churches is that they put more of a burden on their members than what they had before they became a Xian. This is what happened at Heritage Chapel with overburdened lives and some high powered worship services which led to an emotional roller coaster of excitement and depression, in which eventually led to many giving up.
 - 2. I would like to ask some of them now, "Did your Xianity give you any rest?" "Was your burden light and easy to carry while a Xian?"

3. You see I cannot find the gait of Galilee if I am running the race of 20th century Xianity. Rather, I want to run the race of life and finish dead last. Reread I Cor. 13:4-8 and see if that life has anything in it about hurry, hustle, bustle, fast-paced excitement in it.
4. Jesus was never in a hurry. Why? Simply because He knew where he was going. He had a peace that passed all understanding, a confidence that was strong and sure. Jesus lived an indestructible life (Heb. 7:16), that had a focus on others.

D. YOKE.

But you also get a yoke! Relax, it's a good one! One that is easy to bear.

1. Too many times we want to do Egypt's work in Canaan's land. We find ourselves going after all the wrong things; materialism, fame, beauty, etc. Our pursuit should of contentment (Heb. 13:5; 1Tim. 6:6; Phil. 4:11-12).
 2. To have rest is not laziness, or doing nothing. Rather it is an attitude that says Jesus will help me. This yoke is so much better than the world's yoke.
 3. We have a hang-up on being doers. Look again at Mt. 4:19; Jesus did not say "Come and I will help you do some fishing." Rather he said, "I will make you to be..." This is the kind of yoke Jesus is talking about.
- E. If we come to worship wanting to be super charged, jacked-up, and power filled we have the emphasis on doing. Rather, I want to talk about sacrifice, commitment, surrender, etc. I want to help you TO BE what you ought to be.

III. **GIVE ME THE TREETOPS!**

- A. You can have your mountain top experiences, your power packed worship services, super charged seminars and life in the fast lane. All I want is the treetops.
- B. In 1Chr. 14:8-16, David found that the answer not in the thunder, lightning or earthquake. The answer was in the treetops.
- C. Wow! Just think of it, God going before us, winning our battles, conquering our enemies, giving us assurance, comfort, and rest.
- D. We each need a Sabbath rest to learn from Jesus. Not a time to play golf, or go fish; but a time away from everything to hear the gentle breeze and the rustling of the treetops.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. In the rat race of life the rats will win.
- B. So which will it be "an asphalt road and a 1,000 lost golf balls" or the gait of Galilee.
- C. If you will learn the gait of Galilee you will find rest for your soul.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.