

**Series (Oct. 11 - Nov. 22): *Battles from the Boardroom of the Soul* by Colin S. Smith**

Series Theme Verse: "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and let everything in me bless His holy name!

Let my whole being bless the Lord and never forget all His good deeds!" -Psalm 103:1-2

**Sun., Nov. 15: Finding Rest and Restoration, Stewardship 3**

Memory Verse: Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

Sunday Message: Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul #6: "Finding Rest and Restoration"

Text: Psalm 62:1 "Only in God does my soul find rest. My salvation comes from Him."

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 11:27-30

Reading of Scripture: Psalm 23

Blurb: Do you feel an emptiness deep inside, a restlessness in your heart? Jesus makes a radical invitation, that only He can truly show us the Father. Only He can make us whole and put us at peace. This Sunday we learn how to follow His call to come to Him, and come to Him with the whole of who we are. If you are weary, this invitation is for you!

**OPENING MUSIC:** *God of Creation* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

-Church Conference after worship

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

"Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." -Matthew 11:28

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*I Love to Hear You Speak*

*Oh God*

*Restoration*

Worship Prayer -Pastor Andrew

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Psalm 23:1-6 (CEB) -Reader: Lynn Ruter

**In Psalm 23, King David describes in poetic images the rest that God gives His people.**

**1 The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing.**

**2 He lets me rest in grassy meadows;**

**He leads me to restful waters;**

**3 He restores my soul.**

**He guides me in proper paths for the sake of His good name.**

**4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley,**

**I fear no danger because you are with me.**

**Your rod and your staff—they protect me.**

**5 You set a table for me right in front of my enemies.**

**You bathe my head in oil;**

**my cup is so full it spills over!**

**6 Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life,**

**and I will live in the Lord's house forever.**

**GROW MOMENT:** Stewardship Consecration -Teresa Gruber

**PRAYERS:** Prayer for rest...for us as individuals, and as people. -Pastor David

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE:** “Song for All Ages: *Love the Lord*” - Pastor Andrew

**MESSAGE:** Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul #6: “Finding Rest and Restoration”

**PP#1:** Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul: Trusting in the Darkness

“Only in God does my soul find rest. My salvation comes from Him.” -Psalm 62:1

Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul. Finding Rest and Restoration. Psalm 62:1 “Only in God does my soul find rest. My salvation comes from Him.”

It’s a crazy time to be alive, isn’t it? COVID-19, other natural disasters, financial and economic hardships, isolation, political shifts, racial upheaval, and then all of the stuff from our own lives, our relationships, finances, families, and heading into the holidays.

**PP#2:** *Image from the series - the boardroom members all arguing*

We’ve been taking an inward journey into our souls these past few weeks, and we’re finding that things are not always so calm there. We have come to realize that often we experience a divided soul. Heart, Mind, Will, Conscience, Memory and Imagination usually pull in different directions. And as you observe the conflict and turmoil going on inside of you, don’t you have a welling desire for peace? For finding rest for your soul?

**PP#3:** *Image depicting a restless soul or heart*

Now, we can look good on the outside—having a good job and happy home—but there can be this growing feeling of emptiness, and inner ache, a restlessness at the core of our beings. Mind is often double minded. Will is often divided. The affections of the heart can change quickly. Imagination stirs hungrily. We have such unhappy memories and burdened consciences. We begin to discern a growing restlessness in our souls.

And there seems to be a universal restlessness, and it drives the pursuit of pleasure in our culture. But we cannot live in joy with unrest in our souls. This is what fuels Netflix, and Hollywood, and Broadway.

In Psalm 62:1, King David says, “My soul finds rest in . . . God alone!” Here is the Gospel, simple and pure. It’s the clarion call to our restless world: “You are made in the image of God, and God has placed within you a thirst that only He can supply.” This is a universal truth that has pervaded the ages.

**PP#4:** *Image of a peaceful young Augustine having found his heart content.*

St. Augustine, one of the great saints of the church who lived 1400 years after King David, found this true. He grew up in the Roman Empire with privilege and wealth. As a young man, his genius mind set him apart, but at the age of 17 he left home to pursue worldly pleasures. His Christian mother prayed for him for the next 17 years. And finally, Augustine gave up on the emptiness of the world torn by a restless heart. He became a Christian, and finally felt whole,

centered, and at peace. In his *Confessions*, he famously wrote to God, “You have made us for yourself. So our souls are restless until they find rest in you.” It is still true, 1600 years later.

**PP#5:** Matthew 11:27-30 (CEB)

27 “My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal Him. 28 “Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. 29 Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for your souls. 30 My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.”

When Jesus came and walked the earth, He was God, and He came to bring us back to God. Turn to Matthew 11. We’ll pick it up at verse 25. Jesus is shifting His public ministry of preaching and teaching and healing focused on training the disciples to now going to the cities (Matthew 11:1). So, Jesus is taking His message to the public. And look at what He says here, as He introduces His message to the people. Matthew 11:27, “My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal Him.”

Your soul finds rest in God alone. And then, Jesus says, “Only I know the Father, intimately, uniquely, fully. I come from Him. You want to find Him? I can reveal Him to you!” Jesus is that unique person who is fully human, and so comes among us to connect with us fully; but Jesus is also fully divine—is Himself God—and so comes to connect us fully with God. Only Jesus can do this! And He promises to share His unique connection with the Father to us, letting us “in” on His favored status. He can share about the Father like no one else. If you are seeking God, Jesus is your man!

Then, in verse 28 comes that unbelievable offer, that invitation that goes straight to our hearts, “Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. 29 Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for your souls. 30 My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.” This is the greatest, sweetest, most beautiful offer you will ever hear! Is your soul stirring within you?

**PP#6:** Finding Rest and Restoration (Matt. 11:27-30)

1. Audience: Anyone experiencing restlessness

I want us to take a look at Jesus’ 1. Audience, 2. Invitation, and 3. Promise here.

First of all, Jesus’ audience: who is Jesus targeting? “You who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads.” Jesus is speaking to the weary and burdened.

A meeting is called in the boardroom of your soul. The members gather in a dejected mood. Mind: I’m anxious. There are so many headlines that make me nervous. I see increasing danger these days. I am really starting to worry. And, as I age in life, I have an increasing restlessness about our life. I have more and more questions I cannot answer. It’s disturbing.

Heart: I’m heavy. Over the years I’ve given myself in love, and I’ve been so disappointed. I feel betrayed. I’ve been broken. I feel it better if I keep myself in check, because I’m worried that if I were to open myself up, I’m going to get wounded.

Imagination: I’m frustrated, too. I’m constantly looking for new possibilities for the future, but as soon as one gets close, it seems to disappear from view. I have to then think of another one. The rest of you keep telling me, “Imagination, come up with a big idea that’s worthy of the full devotion of our lives.” Well, I’ve come up with lots of ideas, but the rest of you are never satisfied. You’re pretty hard to please. Nothing is good enough for you.

Conscience is also struggling. He's aware of some things that have been done that should not have been done. He's tried to get them on the agenda for discussion with the other member of the board, but usually he's told he's out of order. He consistently finds himself frustrated and burdened because he is living with issues that the board refuses to discuss.

Memory, however, has a different problem. The board listens to him, but none of the board members know what to do about the issues he raises. Memory shares his regrets. He talks about things he wishes were different, about things he wishes never happened. And Mind says he agrees. Heart weeps, and Will says he wishes it didn't happen, too. But at the end of the day, nobody is able to do anything that makes any difference. So, Memory asks, "Where am I to go with my burden?"

Will: I don't want to be left out. I'm frustrated, too. I'll tell you why: I know what I want, but so often I don't get it. That's why I get angry so often. I'm tired of being told by the rest of you on the board to try harder. I'm fed up living under the burden of this word: "ought!"

Suddenly Heart tells everyone to shush. "Listen, do you hear that? Listen!" And in that brief pause, Jesus' words permeate into the room: "You who are weary and heavy laden . . . ." If you know anything of restlessness in your soul, Jesus is speaking to you!

**PP#7:** Finding Rest and Restoration (Matt. 11:27-30)

1. Audience: Anyone experiencing restlessness
2. Invitation: For all of you to come to all of Him

The second thing I want us to hear is *the invitation* Jesus offers. Jesus calls to you, to your soul, "Come to me!"

Some of us know that we need God, or at least are willing to give God a try. Psalm 62:5 says "Find rest, O my soul, in God alone." It's a command to the soul to go find rest in God. How do we do that? Jesus says that in order to find God, we must "go" to Jesus. What does that mean? Does this mean that we must affirm that Jesus lived and died for our sins? Or does it mean to feel a warmth in our hearts? How do we "come" to Jesus? What does that look like?

**PP#8:** *Image of a successful man in his 40s with the perfect life.*

Consider two representative characters. The first one I'll name John. John was brought to church when he was young. He never knew of a time without God. He knows the Christian teachings, for he was in confirmation and youth group. John did well in school and then he started his own successful business. He has a wife and family, and he attends church. To all outward appearances, he looks just fine. In reality, however, his work drives his life. And over the past few years, he's finding it difficult to stay motivated. And yet there is a great hunger within his soul.

What has happened in John's soul? Early on in life, his Mind came to believe in Jesus. But Imagination has not been captured. He is pursuing another dream he has embraced. Heart is not engaged, and so Will finds it hard to get motivated. There is a division in his boardroom. Mind is persuaded for Jesus, but not the others. So, instead of the whole soul coming to Jesus, the rest of board members regard his faith as an interest of the mind. His soul remains restless.

**PP#9:** *Image of a warm and happy 40s-something woman with three kids.*

Then there is Mary. Mary first went to church as a youth when invited by her friend. She made more good friends there, and kept engaged. She heard testimonies from others of how they

gave their lives to Jesus. And when she heard them speak, she wished that something special would happen to her like it did in those who shared their faith. She prayed about it, but not much happened. But then, one day she went to Red Rock camp. At the evening worship service, she felt God was very close. She knew He was real. She prayed a prayer of commitment, and told her youth leader and friends. All were thrilled. She remembers it as one of the greatest nights of her life. But that was 20 years ago. Now she is raising 3 children, and enjoys being a mother. But she has a restlessness in her soul. God seems far away. She wonders if what happened at the camp was just a youthful rush of enthusiasm.

What's going on in her boardroom? Mary came to Jesus with her heart. It was real, and authentic. But her mind was never engaged. And when Mind is not engaged in times of faith, it will not be helpful during times of doubt, either. It was about the emotions. And now that doubt creeps in, it's still her *emotions* that are guiding her. They've just changed sides! She has had different experiences at the emotional level. And now she has division within soul. Heart says it must have been real because she felt it. But Mind says, "I don't think so. Do you still feel it?" No. And in the end, Heart can't embrace what the Mind can't believe.

Now, we each have our own stories. But the point is that when Jesus said, "Come to me," He was speaking to WHOLE soul, not just part of it!

Both John and Mary had good starts. The Holy Spirit can begin the work with any member of your boardroom. We may have believed from the teaching in our childhood, which is a function of the mind. Or we may have felt it at some time, a function of the heart. Both are *authentic*, but not *adequate*! For there to be rest in the soul, all the other board members need to be converted, too. Some of us haven't found rest because we have not come to Jesus with our whole soul.

The greatest commandment—do you remember it?—is Deuteronomy 30:10, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, and with all your strength."

What if you hear Jesus' command in Matthew 11:29 not as for all the different people who are weary, but as all of *the parts of you* who are weary—Mind, Heart, Conscience, Will, Memory and Imagination? "Come to me, all [of you] who are weary."

**PP#10:** Matthew 11:27-30 (CEB)

27 "My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal Him. 28 "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. 29 Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for your souls. 30 My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."

Now, Jesus also tells us how to bring all of ourselves to Him. Verse 29, "Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for your souls. 30 My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."

**PP#11:** Finding Rest and Restoration (Matt. 11:27-30)

1. Audience: Anyone experiencing restlessness
2. Invitation: For all of you to come to all of Him
  - a. "Put on my yoke"
  - b. "Learn from me"

The two imperative verbs here give us the two ways to bring all of ourselves to all of Him.

1. First, He says, “put on my yoke.” A yoke is a harness that tied two animals together, pulling in the same direction. And when one of the animals wanted out, or to go its own way, the harness kept it in alignment. Jesus says to bind ourselves to Him. To do that, we must unbind ourselves from all the other harnesses we have put on. We must release our other allegiances, and commit to go along with His plan. This is what it means to take Jesus as our Lord. We take on His yoke. But Jesus also promises that His yoke is good. It is not oppressive. It is helpful! It was made for us. The other yokes we’ve tried, they don’t really fit. And they choke us, drag us down. It’s like a tool that fits well in the hand. Now we can really get to work!

**PP#12:** *Image showing how a yoke works, or perhaps two oxen yoked together working a field.*

What yoke do you need to take off? Pleasure? Popularity? Success? Security? Control? Self? In order to put on Jesus’ yoke, you must take off your other bindings. But when you put on Jesus’ yoke, you are now aligned well with God’s work, and you can make a difference. You play a part in God’s greater purpose. The yoke stops perhaps well-intentioned animals from plowing randomly across the field hoping to do some good, and puts you in place where you can do the most good. And the good thing about Jesus’ yoke is that when we stubbornly pull against it, He keeps us in alignment.

**PP#13:** *Modern image of sitting in a school desk with Jesus as the teacher*

2. Secondly, Jesus says, “Learn of me.” Remember, He knows the Father, and He has promised to reveal Him to us. So, we must enrol as a pupil in His classroom. Now, if you’re like I am, you would rather sit on the HR team. We have questions for the teachers. We want to interview them, ask them questions to see if their answers are satisfactory. But Jesus says, become my student! God does not answer us when we treat Him as His HR team. And you won’t find rest for your soul.

Change your relationship with Jesus. Get off the examination team and get into the desk. Listen to what He is teaching, and learn what He wants you to know. When you do, you will hear words of life, and you will have rest in your soul.

“Come to me,” says Jesus, *all of you*. Put on my yoke, and become my student.

**PP#14:** Finding Rest and Restoration (Matt. 11:27-30)

1. Audience: Anyone experiencing restlessness
2. Invitation: For all of you to come to all of Him
  - a. “Put on my yoke”
  - b. “Learn from me”
3. Promise: “I will give you rest”

And thirdly, there is this incredible, soul-changing promise. Jesus says, “I will give you rest.” You’ve tried to find it so many other places. Take off those yokes. Stop the endless hurling of questions and get into the desk. Sit down, and experience the rest that only comes from Jesus!

**PP#15:** *Image of an exhausted person collapsing on Jesus.*

Holy Spirit sits down in the chair and looks intently at the weary board members. “I’ve invited a special guest today,” He announces. “He’s my soul-mate. I think He can help us. Give a warm welcome to Jesus.”

Jesus looks at each member on the board of your soul, and with a warm invitation, says to each one:

“Mind: Come to me, and let me from this day be your teacher!

“Will: Come to me, and let’s get yoked together.

“Imagination: Come to me, and embrace a new dream. It’s bigger than your work, family, pleasure...all of those will be offered up to this dream. All of you will finally be in alignment.

“Memory: I want you to come to me. The past is the past and you can’t change it, but it doesn’t have to be your prison. I can redeem your past, what you wish didn’t happen, and make *that* the place where God’s glory is unleashed in your life, for His glory and honor.

“Conscience: Bring that burden. You can’t forgive yourself, and others may never forgive you. But I can forgive you. And I want to! I offer you true rest!

“Heart: I have something to show you. See my hands, my side? See how much I love you? I want to pour my love into you, so you can pour it back out into a broken and wounded world.”

**PP#16:** *Image of a group of happy people all embracing a smiling Jesus together.*

For the first time, the members of the board stayed silent. They were catching a glimpse of possibilities that none of them had ever seen before. If the whole soul would come to Christ, they could finally come together. They could have a unified new purpose, a new direction.

Mind speaks first: “There’s so much I don’t understand, and I have a thousand questions. But I do believe what He’s saying, and I want to start learning from Him.”

Imagination jumps in: “I’m tired of small dreams. This is the first time I’ve been invited to be a crucial part of something bigger than myself.”

Will: “If I yoke self to Him, I tie myself to the very power of God. That’s what I’ve always really wanted! And if I align *my will* with *His will*, then at last *we will* be able to do *His will!*”

Memory says distantly, “It never occurred to me before that my pain could actually become the very place where God is glorified. What better thing can I do with my retched past than to offer it up to Him to redeem it?”

Heart beats wildy and stammers, “I’ve tasted love, sometimes sweet, sometimes bitter, but never anything like this!”

Conscience stands up: “I’ve carried my burden too long. No matter what I’ve tried, it’s still there. I long to be able to lay it all down. The motion is that we all come to Jesus. Let’s call the question!”

The motion was carried unanimously.

Amen.

**CLOSING SONG:** *Near to the Heart of God -Sanctify*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Pastor David

After worship today: Church Conference...and SNACKS!!

Next week’s message: “Pursuing One Holy Passion”

**OFFERING:** -Pastor David

Give of your monies to God’s work through this church. You can give in person, in the offering box as you leave the sanctuary. You can mail it or drop it off in the church office. Or, most conveniently, you can make an automated transfer or a debit card payment using the square on the bulletin or by going to the church website.

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.” -Matthew 11:28

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David

**CLOSING MUSIC** -Sanctify