

**5 July 2020 - Homily - Matthew 11:25-30**  
**By: Fr. Paul Magyar**

In today's gospel from Matthew we hear the emphasis on Jesus as being the revealer of divine wisdom. Jesus emphasizes his self-understanding as the absolute son of the absolute Father. Jesus addresses God the Father and gives Him thanks for choosing to communicate with the simple uneducated people rather than the self-righteous all knowing intelligencia. Jesus is the exclusive revelation of the Father and is happy to be born among the poor and simple, rather than the rich and powerful.

Jesus speaks in a traditional way by personifying Wisdom as the giver of rest and comfort. When we come to mass, we enter the church, sit down and relax from the chaotic outside world. When we are relaxed in the quiet church our mind will start to wander with various racing thoughts. We have opened up ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is now rearranging our thoughts about what we need to do in the proper order of importance. Let the Holy Spirit clarify your mind and thoughts.

Jesus speaks of the yoke. The rabbis refer to it as the yoke of the Torah. The pharisees would remember the torah by heart and all the pharisaic laws. Quantitatively the focus of the pharisees was on adhering to the letter of the law above everything.

Jesus formulates a rather different approach. Jesus first clarifies that a disciple is someone who is a life-long learner. The disciple learns the skills of how to research in order to learn more. Jesus is the Word and therefore He is the Torah personified. Jesus places the importance of the essence of the law above the letter of the law.

Joseph, for example, before he married Mary was informed that she is bearing a child that is not his. By the letter of the law he could have had her stoned. However Joseph follows the essence above the letter and therefore rescues Mary by marrying her and fleeing from Nazareth down to Bethlehem.

In comparison with the Pharisee laws (halaka), Jesus' teaching is quantitatively less because it focuses on the essential. However it is qualitatively more difficult because the demands of love of God, neighbour and enemy are inexhaustible.

Praying for all of you

Fr. Paul Magyar