

## Why Worry?

✠ **Jesus reveals the Father. (vv.25-27)**

✠ **Jesus gives the weary rest. (vv.28-30)**

In the name of Jesus, God's true Sabbath-Rest for our souls, dear children of the heavenly Father:

Are you a worrier? Remember Alfred E. Neuman? "What, me worry?" His fictitious face was in advertisements for fifty years before the old *Mad Magazine* picked it up. Missing tooth, hapless grin, not a care in the world, just mischievous eyes, one squinting. Google "What, me worry?" and you get 46,400,000 hits and Alfred E. Neuman's grin.

Can you smile away your troubles? But much depends on your personality type. Pastor Patterson and I were laughing last week when I told him what fun it was to have him preach for us and to see how quickly people warmed up to his otter-type personality. He looked at Bill Eslinger, then asked me, "Did that come from Gary Smalley?" Yes, Gary Smalley's great family, interpersonal DVD series, is called, *Keys to Loving Relationships*. Smalley narrows it down to four personality types each with special qualities. The beaver – always focused on details. The lion – always ready to lead. The golden retriever – always ready to please. And the otter – a party waiting to happen. Most of us are more of one than the others, but usually a combination. **Why Worry?**

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One man told how he and his wife went to get a mortgage. When he put the papers on the broker's desk, she looked up and asked, "Are you an engineer?" He and his wife laughed. "Is it that obvious?" She pointed to his papers in perfect order, then admitted, "My husband is one of those. He drives me crazy!" How can you be an engineer without being able to focus on details like a beaver? But some nights I'm so tired I have to tell myself, "Give it a break!" Beavers can drive themselves crazy?

Remember Jesus' cousin at the beginning of this chapter? Not an otter, he never partied. Not a golden retriever because he did not care what anyone thought as he called the crowds a "**brood of vipers.**" (Matthew 3:7) Leading like a lion was not his style. This last prophet of the Old Testament was absolutely concerned with every detail of God's prophecies about the coming Christ. But in prison John the Baptist showed how the most dedicated Christian sometimes need encouragement. Jesus told John's disciples: "**Go back and report to John...[details about my miracles]...Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.**" (11:6) In life's hard challenges all of us can be weighted down with worries and cares.

But sometimes people are like little children who can't be pleased. They did not like the beaver-type personality of John or the otter-type of Christ. Like immature children who didn't want to play funeral or wedding, they said John had a demon and Jesus was what we would call, "a party animal." Sin blinds to our own weaknesses in personality.

Entire cities saw Jesus' miracles but refused to repent. They all wanted to be the lion and never back down to God. But Jesus is "**the Lion of the tribe of Judah**" (Revelation 5:5), was telling His own fellow Jews they would be worse off than Gentile cities like Tyre and Sidon or even the most evil ancient Sodom. "**If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.**" (11:23f) Human personality can really get in the way of God's blessings.

Think of the "**wise and learned**" in our society, lion-type beavers forcing their opinions on everyone while complaining that others keep trying to force their opinions on everyone else. Jesus could see how all these earthly distractions blind people to what little children see so easily. Gushing with joy, Jesus said, "**I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from**

*the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.”* It’s not so important who you are, as who you know. Jesus says, *“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”* Graciously God says, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”* (Philippians 4:6 NIV84) Hear His voice as **Jesus reveals the Father** and....

### ✠ **Jesus gives the weary rest. (vv.28-30)**

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* As the famous church father Augustine put it, *“We are restless until we rest in Thee.”* Talk about perfect personality. Everything we lack is perfectly balanced in our beautiful Savior. Jesus is *“the Lion of the tribe of Judah”* (Revelation 5:5) – afraid of absolutely nothing. Nothing could bring Him down. A video on the Internet showed hunters being attacked by a lion in the bush. Their high powered rifles could not steady weak knees and racing hearts. Several hunters were mauled as the magnificent beast fearlessly charged. In the case of our Champion, our Lion of God, death itself could not defeat Him. He rose again and roared in victory at the occupants of that flaming torture chamber from which His courage delivered us.

Attention to detail? Did ever an engineer build better than this beaver? Remember the Old Testament *Sabbath* that Hebrew word for *rest*? It wasn’t for sitting at home worried and fretting over the Sunday paper. Every *Sabbath* called to the assembly to hear from God’s Word how carefully He carried out the details of our salvation. **Why Worry?** Our God got everything right in every single prophecy of the coming Messiah. One promise remains. Christ died, Christ has risen, surely Christ will come again!

Where was there ever a golden retriever like Jesus – eager to please His heavenly Father by suffering and dying to bring us to the eternal pleasures of heaven? God promised through Isaiah as if it were already done: *“Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.”* (Isaiah 53:4 KJV)

Truly Jesus is the greatest otter. He has a party ready any moment. God calls it His great wedding banquet where Jesus says He will marry His Church, all believers who put their faith in Him.

Every summer Thursday when you’re tired from work, He calls out His invitation. Every Sunday morning and Wednesdays during Lent, special worship opportunities in between, our loving Lion, careful Beaver, pleasing Golden, joyful Otter calls out: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

An aviator uses the “yoke” of a plane to control the attitude, usually in both pitch and roll.<sup>1</sup> In a similar sense Christ’s “yoke” lifts us up with living hope high up above the clouds of despair as Christ carries us onward and upward to heaven. Instead of heavy human traditions and burdensome guilt under God’s law, Jesus fills our wings with mercy and our fuel tank with God’s compassion. This is truly new life where we, like Moses, find **rest** from the terror of God’s glory (Exodus 33:12-23) in the cleft of the rock which is Christ (CW 389). With Paul we find **rest** from the guilt and frustration of our sin (Romans 7:15-25). In Christ alone we find **rest** from the criticism of the *“wise and learned”* of this world, **rest** from the spiritual ignorance of those who do not know God or choose to make up their own. Instead of stumbling under the weight of guilt and fear, we rise daily to live in the eager expectation of blessings from God and life everlasting with Him. Now God’s commandments show us the way to joyfully give thanks to God. With faith as good as gold, we *“run on the heights”* (Habakkuk 3:19) of God’s loving kindness and tender mercy. And the more we as a congregation focus on the full personality of God’s Son our Savior Jesus Christ, the more we realize that the body of Christ has all we need here too. God gives us lionhearted leaders; attentive, hard working beavers; golden retrievers and great fun with our share of otters. All we need we have in Christ! **Why Worry? Rest** in Christ alone! Amen.

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoke\\_\(aircraft\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoke_(aircraft))