

Refreshing Your Leadership in God's Grace: Christ's Invitation to Christian Leaders

“Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Those words of Jesus are well known, but if we're honest, our leadership seldom feels restful. We slip into patterns of drivenness, workaholism, and control when our Lord calls us to an easy yoke. We run dry when Christ promises fullness. If you're a leader at any level in any context and this sounds at all familiar, this session is for you. We'll explore wisdom from our experiences and from the greatest leader ever. Above all, we'll refocus on God's wonderful grace.

Paul Coulter lives in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, with his Malaysian wife, Gar-Ling, and their two children. Having begun his working life in medicine, he moved into pastoral ministry across cultures among Belfast's Chinese community and then within his own culture in Glenabbey, a large church outside the city. He completed doctoral studies in church and mission and taught practical theology and missiology for eight years in Belfast Bible College. Since April 2019 he has been Head of Ministry Operations for Living Leadership, training, supporting, and resourcing disciple-making leaders in the Church across the UK and Ireland. He is also director of the Centre for Christianity in Society (www.christianityinsociety.org), which seeks to connect Christ with contemporary culture, and author of several articles on BeThinking.org. He has written several articles for BeThinking.org and speaks and writes regularly on the Christian mind and contemporary culture.

I. Reflection

1. How 'successful' do you feel you are in ministry?
2. How are your energy levels in ministry?
3. What is Jesus saying to you in your ministry?

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **Matthew 11:25-30**

II. Intercession (verses 25-26) – the knowledge that counts comes by revelation from the Father

A.

B.

Pause to apply

- Have we believed the lies that ‘success’ is due to our techniques and achievements, that ‘failure’ is always our fault, or that we deserve more recognition?
- Have we lost confidence that God will work to save people and bring them to maturity?

III. **Exposition** (verse 27) – the knowledge that counts comes through Christ

A.

B.

Pause to apply

- Have we drifted into ‘sub-Christian’ or ‘Jesus-plus’ teaching?
- Have we drifted from the wonder of the gospel in our devotional lives and motivation?

IV. **Invitation** (verse 27) – growth comes through being yoked with Christ

The yoke:

A.

B.

Pause to apply

- Whose yokes are we serving under other than the easy yoke of Christ?
- What burdens do we try to carry alone that we need to share with Jesus?

V. Listening attentively

Suggested Readings:

Horsfall, Tony (2010) *Working from a Place of Rest*. BRF.