

The Way Out

Religion alone produces conflicted people; we end up holding truths that promise salvation, but our hearts are in turmoil on the inside.

Isaiah 57:20

²⁰ But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.

Truth has betrayed us! They promise us freedom and life, yet remain powerless to effect any lasting change.

Is there any way out of this deeply discouraging cycle?

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

The revelation of Jesus is poured out on all with child-like faith, and the Father is delighted to do it!

But what about the wise and learned, who cannot seem to be simple? Does Jesus not care for them?

Jesus pauses, and makes a tender offer of mercy, straight from the heart of God.

²⁸ "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Jesus says, "Come unto me. I know how your search for truth and the conflict within your own heart has wearied you. I will put your heart at peace."

The way out is too simple for many to accept: Let your love of truth turn into love for Jesus!

John 4:7-10

⁷ There *came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus *said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. ⁹ Therefore the Samaritan woman *said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

John 4:20-21

²⁰ Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus *said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

Jesus says, "Come unto me. Your concern with controversy is just a distraction from the turmoil within your heart."

"I will satisfy the thirst you cannot name, but is never quenched."

John 3:1-3, 14

3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; ²this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

¹⁴As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

Jesus says, "Because you have come unto me, I will disclose to you the secrets of eternal life. I will give all to make you whole."

Mark 15:43

⁴³Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

Arimathea is not a known location, but the word translates, "Best Doctrine Town."

What was the trademark of his faith until this point? He was a secret disciple, suppressed by his own fears.

Isaiah 57:18-19

¹⁸ "I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and to his mourners,

¹⁹ Creating the praise of the lips. Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near,"

Says the Lord, "and I will heal him."

Jesus' death sounded a cry in Joseph's soul: "Come unto me, even in my death. Do not be afraid any longer. Only believe."

Closing exhortation and prayer