



## Leaders Learn

Matthew 11:25-30

Synopsis: It is graduation season. Nursery School children and doctoral candidates gather to participate in this rite of passage. Each person, regardless of age is recognized for his and her academic achievements. During ancient times there were rituals that acknowledged the mastery a student had attained while under instruction. In ancient times the student sat at the feet of the teacher. It was the task of the teacher to ask questions. It was the task of the student to provide the answers. Since then we have been exposed to the psychology of learning,

the sociology of knowledge, and the diversity of learning styles. The classroom has become the marketplace of ideas, and an animated arena of inter action between peers and professors.

Jesus was a teacher. As a Rabbi he not only taught the content of the Torah but also its meaning and intent. Rabbis were the intellectual and educational gatekeepers of the community. They were the ones who selected students. The student did not select to study with a Rabbi but could express a wish to study with a certain Rabbi. Initially, Jesus invited 12 men to study with him. They were known as the disciples or the students. Gradually, Jesus' group of students expanded in number and increased in influence throughout the world.

Matthew tells us that the content for one lesson that Jesus taught was directed toward the weary, burdened, and the tired. He invites the students to learn about weariness, burden bearing, and the way relief and release can come to each one who is pressed down. Jesus models a learning style that that will serve them well throughout all of their lives. He teaches the disciples about the necessity of submitting to the will of God. At first blush Jesus' style is anachronistic. It doesn't fit with My Space, U Tube, Face Book, and the multiple learning style approach. Jesus does not ignore nor dismiss the multiple learning style approach to intellectual development. Neither does he ignore the visual and auditory aids that help a person to learn. Rather he begins with God the source of all truth and encourages his students to come to know God, not just know something about God.

Questions for follow through from this message:

What is burdensome in your life?

What is your learning style?

Who is the teacher that had the greatest impact on you?

What did this teacher teach you?

What do you think Jesus means when he says, "Learn of me?"