

Theme: "**Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.**" (Matthew 11.28)

**To the Weary, I AM!  
John 8. 48-58; Exodus 3.7-10, 13-15**

**All Saints' Cathedral Mission  
November 15, 2020  
8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm**

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**Introduction:**

- ⇒ Weariness of the COVID-19 SOPs: Weary of wearing a mask, washing your hands, disinfecting everything, 'social' distancing, leave home only when you need to, and worrying about everyone around you and anxious for your loved ones.
- ⇒ There is even a new term, 'Caution Fatigue'! Caution fatigue leading either to complacency or to extreme restraint.
- ⇒ Weary people walk with heaviness as if carrying a burden. They can be irritable, stressed, depressed, fearful, or simply not sure of what is happening to them. As a result, undesirable or harmful actions have increased:

*Gender Based Violence (GBV), sexual violence, worsening poverty and hunger, child marriage in exchange for dowry/bride price, teenage prostitution for "money, food, and even sanitary towels", teenage pregnancy, child abuse, child labour and hawking drugs, wealthier children dabbling in porn because their principal access to the outside world is the media (internet, TVs, social media, etc.),*

*The homes in which we should find safety to escape COVID-19 have become increasingly unsafe for some.*

*But the LORD says (2 Corinthians 12.1-10),*

***"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And Paul added, "... when I am weak, then I am strong."***

Jesus met many weary people: Nicodemus weary of religiosity, the bereaved, prostitutes, demoniacs, tax collectors like Zacchaeus, and others. To them all, Jesus says, "**I AM ...**".

At His feet, dignity and indignity, wealthy and pauper, ruler and ruled, religious and irreligious, the sick and the healthy, social outcasts and the respected, all met on level ground, and found rest for their souls.

- John 8.48-58, Jesus spoke to them about True Freedom! They insisted they were born free - not weary, and did not need Jesus!

- Jesus revealed Himself fully, **“I AM”** (v. 58), the self-existent God Who revealed himself to Moses as “I AM WHO I AM” or **YHWH** (v. 56-58).
- Jesus is the Source of life, the Fount of our livelihood, He Who **“does not faint or grow weary; ...”** (Isaiah 40.28). The weary need Him who never grows weary and is never weighed down. He never sighs; He never says, “Ooops”!

### I. I AM the Bread of Life (John 6.1-14, 35-41, 66-69)

I did not get my salary the final 3 months at UCU. No income affects food, our livelihood and lifestyle.

1. COVID has reduced many to ‘No money, no food’! They wake up hungry, sleep exhausted with no hope for a difference tomorrow.
2. They came to Jesus for a sign, and hungry. He saw their deeper need, they needed more than food; they needed the I AM who satisfies. Jesus’ Solution: we must ‘eat His flesh’ (6.50-51); i.e. put our faith in Him.
3. Jesus said, **“I AM the Bread of Life.” Come to me.** We need more than this temporary food satisfaction. Peter said it better, **“LORD, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ...”** (v. 68) – His Life!

### II. I AM the Light of the World (John 8.12, 48-58; 9.1-7)

Else we walk in darkness (8.12), when good appears evil and evil appears good; right appears wrong and wrong appears right! *Hence political and public service opportunism.*

1. Jesus demonstrated it by opening the eyes of a blind man (Chapter 9). The man was **“blind from birth”**. A hopelessly helpless situation!
2. The man was condemned to a beggarly existence all his life. ‘Tomorrow’ was going to be the same as yesterday – living on handouts. What a wearisome life!
3. The I AM is LORD who created your eyesight, both physical and spiritual. The Jews were blind but thought they saw (John 9.39-41),

***“Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ...the Pharisees ... said to him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”***

4. Some cannot see the way forward and are tired of the SOPs. God never created us for SOPs. Jesus offers a hand to lead us forward, **“I AM the light of the world.” Come to me.**

### III. I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10.10-18; 18.33-37)

Jesus claims what His earthly ancestor, David, said in Psalm 23; He is the Good Shepherd.

The hireling is the exact opposite to the Good Shepherd:

1. The hireling works for pay (**CORRUPTION**) BUT the Good Shepherd for the welfare of the sheep. Jesus does not leave us to the wolves – to our own hardships.
2. The hireling puts his life before the sheep (**POTHOLES**, etc.) BUT the Good Shepherd lays down His life. He cares about our struggles (v. 13)  
The Cross of Calvary is His unmistakable demonstration of this.
3. The hireling shows no intimacy (**NO HUMANITY**) BUT the Good Shepherd knows His sheep intimately, even their weariness. He knows you exhaustively, and His sheep know Him (v. 14)

#### **IV. I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11.17-27, 38-44)**

1. Jesus knows the death of a friend. Death is exhausting and confronts us with questions of the meaning of our life.
  - a) Lazarus' family had been mourning for four days when Jesus came. Martha actually gently rebuked Jesus: **"If you had been here ..."**, (v. 21), meaning, 'We sent you a message, and you did not come when we most needed you!'
  - b) Jesus' answer, **"<sup>25</sup> ... I AM the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"** Jesus is never too late!
2. His death and Resurrection vindicates His claim. We know death and its claims! He rose as the firstfruits; we too shall rise.
  - a) If we have Jesus, the I AM, Death is not the final word. It cannot define our existence anymore and its terror has been neutralized.
  - b) This is not for us to be careless, but we cannot be paralysed by the fear of death.

Are you weary and burdened? Jesus says, "I AM" your Rest.

- If your income is cut, and there is no bread, Jesus says, **"I AM your Rest."**
- When your life looks terminated and tomorrow looks bleak, Jesus says, **"I AM your Rest."**
- When your world appears lonely – no one can touch your misery within, Jesus says, **"I AM your Rest."**
- When death seems to have the final say, Jesus says, **"I AM your Rest."**

**"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."**

Jesus is waiting.