

## Called to Rest, Called to Risk

**Rest:** Our Creator modeled rest, His law commands the Sabbath and Jesus invites us to rest. **Risk:** God called Israel to risk in following Him to the Promised Land and Christ called His disciples/us to risk by following Him for the sake of His kingdom.

**Yes, He calls us to *both* rest and to risk.** Yet living lives that integrate rest and risk is challenging and can bring tension.

Our reflections on Scripture convince us that only when we are in union with Christ, the Vine, can we integrate rest and risk well. When we stray from that union, we corrupt our rest or risk. **But as we remain in dynamic relationship with Christ we *can* live out and integrate “True Rest” and “True Risk.”**

**True Rest is the trust, stillness and faith we experience when we come to Jesus.**

**True Risk is the potential for loss or gain we experience when we follow Jesus towards threat or danger.**

### Invitations to Rest in Scripture

***As you read these Scriptures, how does the Lord's invitation to rest impact you? Notice any resistance you might have.***

**Isaiah 30:15** This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel says: “Only in returning to me and resting will you be saved. In quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.”

**Psalms 91:1-2** Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord; “He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him.”

**Psalms 46:10** “Be still and know that I am God.”

**Psalms 23:2-3** He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**Psalms 62:1-2** My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

**Luke 10:42** (38-42) “There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

**Psalms 127:1-2** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives sleep to His beloved.

**Hebrews 4:1 (2-11)** God's promise of entering His rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it.

**Matthew 11:28-30** Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

**Psalms 4:8, Psalm 37:7, Jeremiah 6:16, Luke 12:29-31**

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## **Invitations to Risk in Scripture**

*As you read these Scriptures, how does the Lord's invitation to risk impact you? Notice any resistance you might have.*

### **Persecution: Acts 5:17-20 & 41-42**

**Matthew 5:10-12** "God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way."

### **Life or Death: 2 Corinthians 4:11-12, Phil 1:20, 2:30, 3:10, I John 3:16**

**Mark 8:34-36** Then, calling the crowd to join His disciples, He said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?"

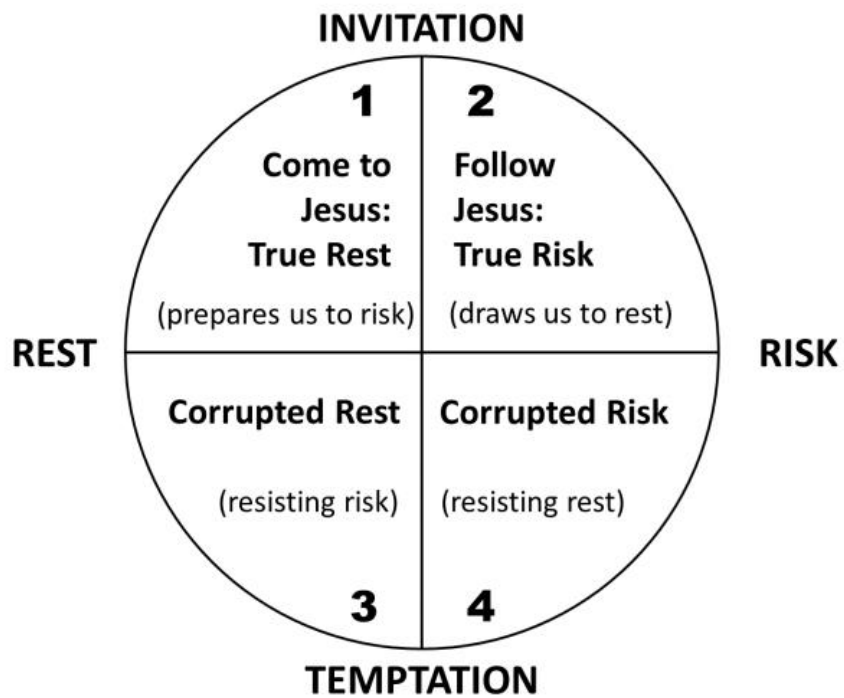
### **Possessions: Luke 9:57-62**

**Matthew 6:20-21 & 24** "Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be...No one can serve two masters."

### **Relationships: Luke 12:49-53, Luke 9:59-62, Proverbs 24:23-26, Matthew 18:15-17, Proverbs 15:31-33, James 5:19-20**

**Matthew 19:29** "And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life."

## Rest and Risk: Invitation or Temptation?



### Case Study #1: Jesus

*Read Matthew 3:16 - 4:11.*

*What invitations and temptations did Jesus face and how did He respond?*

1. Invitation to Rest:

2. Invitation to Risk:

3. Temptation to Rest:

4. Temptation to Risk:

## **Case Study #2: Mission Team**

Four members of a mission team are discussing whether or not to show the Jesus film in a nearby village that has a history of being hostile to the gospel. The last time their team went there to show the Jesus film, they were attacked with rocks and sticks and had to run for their lives.

***Read the descriptions of James, Philip, Roberta and Sarah.***

***Join a group of 2-3 others and discuss where you think the various team members are on the Rest-Risk Circle (they may be in more than one place).***

***How would you pray for each one?***

**James** has recently returned from a refreshing retreat and is feeling well rested. He was part of the team that went to this village before and is keenly aware of the dangers. However, he feels that the situation has changed and the people may be more receptive to the gospel. He has permission from the village chief to come and show the film. He knows it may not go well, but he's been praying and feels a deep peace that God is asking him to do this. He wants to go and hopes his teammates will join him.

**Philip** wishes he could have gone to that retreat but unlike some people, he doesn't have the time for that kind of thing. He is against going to this village and thinks it's ridiculous to put the team in this kind of danger when there are other villages that are much more receptive to the gospel. It's a waste of time and resources he feels. His teenage son is being influenced by James and this infuriates him. There is no way he is going to put his son in that kind of danger. He has sacrificed a lot for God already and enough is enough.

**Roberta** has also been praying about this plan and she does not sense God's leading to go. She has just come back from a long ministry trip and is feeling exhausted. She realizes that she needs to take some time to recover from this last trip and hopes to have some quiet time with the Lord before the next outreach. She commits to pray for the team and gives her blessing but decides that she will not go with them.

**Sarah** is all for the plan to go. She can't wait to write her supporters and let them know about this risky venture. They will be so impressed with her bravery! Maybe they'll even raise her support when they see pictures from the trip. She has no respect for Philip and thinks he's a coward. She feels that Roberta has a poor work ethic.

### **Personal Application:**

***What do I sense God is inviting me to as I consider the Rest-Risk Circle in my own life?***

***Take Home:*** *As we consider ways to support missionaries in risk situations, how might we apply these ideas re: invitations and temptations to rest and risk?*

Look for a **List of Resources** at [www.mc2.global](http://www.mc2.global)