

Life Under Jesus' Yoke

Matthew 11:29-30: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Let us have a word of prayer:

Thank You, Lord, for giving this time to us. We praise You, we worship You. Lord, You are our shepherd, You are our refuge, You are our comforter. I praise You and worship You. Thank You for Your cross and Your death and the sacrifice You made on the cross of Calvary through which we received abundant life. I praise You and worship You. And bless this word. Sanctify us, Lord, we ask for Your help today. Help me to utter Your word. Enable us to hear Your word, understand the word. We ask for Your Holy Spirit's presence. In Jesus precious name I pray. Amen.

Jesus' Call to Us to Give Us Rest

Jesus is calling here and giving an invitation to everyone who is weary, tired, burdened. He is calling us to Himself to give us His rest, His peace. At that time, in those days, the people were under the Pharisees' law. They were burdened with the many laws they had to keep, to implement, and they were tired and weary of those laws. But Jesus was showing them another way, He is calling the people who are tired and weary to tell them that He is going to give them peace, that His yoke is easy and light. You may know that a yoke is the wooden beam which is used to put between two animals, and they do the farming. It also resembles a cross.

He is comparing both the yoke and the cross at the same time. In Lamentations 3:27, it says, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." It is good for a man to bear at a young age. A young age!

D.L. Moody was a preacher, and one time he completed his message, and then went back to his room. Then his friend asked him, "How many got saved today?" He replied, "three and a half." That friend thought it

was three older people and one young person. Then Moody said, “No, it was three young people and one older person. His thought was that young people will have longer to serve the Lord, and they can invest their energy, their strength, their wisdom more in the Lord. That is true; even though the older people can serve the Lord more effectively. It is not about the quantity; it is about the quality of work that we do for our Lord. It is also good for the young to bear the cross at a young age because knowing the Lord is a very blessed thing in one's life.

The Yokes of the World

The world now is very busy, and social media is making it worse. People are confused. One news will come in social media immediately; then another news will come against it. We cannot understand what is true and what is a lie. And the world is also becoming fast, instant, immediate, “I want it right now, readymade.” Then you see, there is no patience; we cannot wait for that. If people cannot wait, then they become more aggressive and they do all kind of weird things. This is the yoke of the world, and therefore there is no peace in this world, only a lot of confusion.

There are other types of yokes also. Businessmen have the yoke of money. The politicians have the yoke of power. Celebrities have the yoke of becoming familiar or famous. There are yokes of ego and pride. These are all the yokes of this world, but they do not give us peace.

In II Corinthians 6:14-16a it says, “Be ye not unequally yoked together,” with whom? “Believers and unbelievers, righteousness and unrighteousness, light and darkness, Christ and Belial, God and idols.”

Some are very busy, busybodies. They are always busy, but they do not work for the Lord. You know the word is busy? B-U-S-Y. Maybe you are familiar with that word; it is being under Satan's yoke (BUSY). They are busy, but they are not working for the Lord. These are the yokes of the world, and there is no peace.

Yoked Together with The Lord Jesus

But our Lord Jesus Christ gives us peace, the comfort, the easy and lightweight yoke. You know that the yoke on the two oxen is put on either side. When we compare spiritually the yoke, we are on one side and the Lord Jesus is on the other side, carrying that yoke. We are not alone in the Christian life; Jesus Christ is always with us; He is beside us.

Hebrews 13:5b says, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” This word gives us great comfort, a great peace in our hearts. He is always with us.

He told Isaac in Genesis 26:3a, „I will be with thee.”

He told Jacob in Genesis 28:15a, “I am with thee.”

And to Moses He said in Exodus 3:12a, “I will be with thee.”

And He said in Joshua 1:5b, “I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”

A Christian’s life is not alone; our Lord is with us. It is like a marriage. In a marriage one cannot be married to a single person, he cannot marry himself. Two people are required. A Christian’s life is like a marriage, and they are not alone, our Lord is there. And there is a burden of the marriage on the yoke, and the burden is shared between Jesus and us. The burden is shared.

Cast the Burden Upon the Lord Jesus

The Lord Jesus Christ has already removed the burden of sin from us. He paid the penalty for our sin. He removed that heavy weight of sin. We are now free in Christ Jesus, and our day-to-day burden is also shared by our Lord Jesus Christ. Psalm 55:22 says, “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and we must learn how to do that; we must learn how to transfer our weight to the Lord.

As an illustration, there was a woman in India who was carrying her baggage on her head, and she was waiting for a bus to come. When the

bus came, she boarded the bus still carrying her baggage on her head. After getting onto the bus, she was standing, but she did not put her baggage down on the bus; she was still carrying it on her head. Then she got a seat and sat down, still carrying the weight on her head. What is the benefit of this? The bus is there to carry her and the weight also, but she was not doing it.

Do you see that when we do not transfer our burden to the Lord, it is like we are carrying twenty suitcases with us always, whether we are standing, sitting, sleeping. Our Lord said, “Cast thy burden upon Me.” You have a lot of plans for your future. You have a lot of plans for your family, for your studies, for your ministry. Who is a good planner, are we or God? God is a good planner, and a good designer. If we give Him our plan and put it into the Lord's hand, it will become more perfect.

So cast our burden upon the Lord, that we may be relieved from this burden, and we can enjoy our spiritual life. Often we feel like the world is unstable. We think that war can break out at any time, war can come anytime, or maybe another pandemic is going to come, or we think that we are going to become sick in the future. We are anxious about our future, what is going to happen.

The Lord says in I Peter 5:7: “Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you.” Casting your burden, casting your anxiousness on the Lord gives us peace in our hearts and rest for our souls. This is the work that is done when we are under the cross, when we are under the yoke of Jesus Christ, when we are under the yoke together with Christ, when we walk together, when we talk together, and when we have fellowship together with Jesus Christ. This is a great blessing.

Union with the Lord Jesus in His Death, Burial, Resurrection

One brother used to pray like this: “Lord, unite us in Your Son's death, burial and resurrection.” Unite us so we are all united into His death, into His burial and into His resurrection when we are under the yoke of Jesus Christ.

When we accept our Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we are saved, we receive salvation. This is the work done inside our hearts. When we proclaim this to the outside world, we witness in the waters of baptism. This is the immersion, the union in His baptism, in His death. We are all united in His death, burial, and resurrection.

In II Corinthians 5:14-15, there is one word in the middle that I want to read: “that if one died for all, then were all dead.” “One died for all,” and with our human reasoning we cannot explain this. If one person dies, how come everyone dies together? It is like a group of people who are sick. Let us assume that in that group only one person takes the medicine. Does it mean that all have taken the medicine? No. I am relating it to that reasoning. If a group of people are hungry, and one person eats food, does that mean everybody in that group has eaten the food? No. So God's Word is beyond our comprehension. Sometimes we cannot explain with our human reasoning, but it is true. It is true.

When David killed Goliath, was the victory for David only or for the whole of Israel? The victory was for the full Israel kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ did the same thing for us. He died for us so that we are all dead; dead to sin and alive in God. In Colossians 2:12a, we read, “Buried with him in baptism,” We are buried with Him in baptism. Normally, who will be buried? The dead people, right? Only the dead ones. And who can tell that this person is dead? Can the dead person tell that he is dead? They cannot tell. Others should tell you that this person is dead. Suppose the dead person comes back to life, what happens? We think he is dead, but he is not dead. He has come back.

One more illustration I will tell you. A person was taking a coffin box in a truck to another place. After some time, it started raining. It was an empty coffin box, and the man thought: “I want to hide for a time from this rain.” So he got inside the coffin box and closed the top.

After some time, two more people got into the truck, and they saw this coffin box. They thought maybe somebody was taking this to another

place. After a few minutes, the rain stopped, and the person inside the coffin box tried to open the top. Then the two other people in that same truck saw this, and they were frightened. They jumped out of the running truck.

It is like this when a dead person comes back to life. It will have serious consequences for others, as well. When we are united in death with Jesus Christ, we are dead to sin, and we do not respond to the sin.

Self-Denial

In Mark's gospel 8:34a it says, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." When we are under the yoke of Jesus Christ, we must deny ourselves; it is a self-denial. There is no "I" in self-denial.

There is a big "I" in the one who said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above God." This was Lucifer; "I, I, I." Lucifer was proud, but this "I" should be laid aside; this "I" should become a big zero when we are under the yoke of Jesus Christ. When there is self-denial, we take up the yoke. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself took up the cross, He denied Himself. He was equal with God, but He left all reputation, and He became like a servant in the form of man. He humbled Himself unto death on the cross of Calvary, He denied Himself and took the cross upon Himself. The yoke is like a cross, laying aside the alphabet. When the "I," the ego, and the pride are laid aside, it allows the will of God in our lives.

Accept the Will of God

This is the truth of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. We heard this morning how the death impacted our lives. It is death, and it is our death united in Christ Jesus. It brings self-denial, and it allows the will of God in our lives. That is the important thing to see the will of God as a straight line going to the top. The will of God is a straight line. Our will always will be horizontal, perpendicular to that, going across, cutting through the will of God. That is the meaning of the cross, that we must

deny ourselves, and let go of our will, and allow the will of God in our lives. That is the impact of the cross, the impact of the yoke.

You know that Joseph brought his two sons, Manasseh, the elder one, and Ephraim, the younger one to Jacob to bless them. He brought them to Jacob so he could bless Manasseh with the right hand and Ephraim with his left hand. Do you remember what Jacob did? He crossed his hands when he blessed them. Oh, Joseph did not like this! It was against his will. Joseph wanted Manasseh to be blessed with Jacob's right hand. But Jacob blessed him with his left hand, and it is written that Joseph was displeased because his will was not done there. And he told his father, "Father, this is not correct. Please correct yourself. Bless Manasseh with your right hand. He is the elder one." And Jacob refused him. "My son, I know it. I know it." So always the will of God goes across our will in our life. We must allow His will in our life. Accept the will of God. Understand the will of God. Allow the will of God in our life to receive the blessing of God. Sometimes, some believers will tell God also: "Lord, this is not correct. Please change Your plan. Please change Your will." No! God is always right. He is a perfect planner for our life. This is the work of the cross. This is the work under the yoke of Jesus Christ.

This is the word; we must accept the will of God. Jesus did that before going to the cross of Calvary. He said: "It is Thy will, not My will." After accepting the will of God, He was ready to do His will. He was ready to go to the cross willfully, willingly. And He showed complete obedience.

Be Honest and Truthful with the Lord Jesus

If we do not accept the will of God in our lives, we may not be able to show complete obedience. Half obedience is complete disobedience. We must accept the will of God in our lives. To accept the will of God in our lives, we must be honest with God. We must be truthful with God, with the Lord. When we go and meet a doctor, we must tell him clearly what our problem is. We cannot hide it. Unless we tell the doctor what our problem is, he will not be able to treat you well.

When we see an attorney, a lawyer, or a police officer, we must be truthful and file correct information in order to win that case. Otherwise, we will lose it. It applies in the same way with our Lord. We must have a one-to-one relationship to be honest and truthful.

Complete Obedience to the Lord Jesus

This is the first thing we do when we allow the will of God in our life. The will of God is not a highway that we can see for 5 miles or 10 miles long. It is like you are climbing a mountain, going around turns. You must wait and see what is going to be around the next turn. That is the will of God. Daily, you must allow it to show complete obedience. It is like this. When you go and see a barber or hair cutting salon, and you sit in the chair, you must cooperate with him, whatever he tells you. Even if you are a supreme court judge, a governor of a state or the president of this country, the barber may push your head forward, sideways, backwards, and you must obey.

It is like when you buy new clothes, maybe a shirt and trousers and you go to a tailor to get them to fit you. He takes the new clothes, and he cuts them into pieces. Can we say, "Please do not do that? No, no. Stop it! Do not cut my clothes, they are new." Unless he cuts it, he cannot make the shirt or the trousers to fit. It is the same way with the Vineyard Keeper, he removes unwanted branches from us. Why? To make us more fruitful.

The work of the Lord is a painful experience. The will of God working in our life, even though it is displeasing us and a painful experience for us, it is necessary for us to grow in the Lord, and it helps us to become more fruitful. Then we will come into the conformation of His image.

The sculptor who makes statues takes rock and makes a statue. He removes all unwanted things until it becomes a statue of liberty. Sometimes, in the same way, the will of God working in us is a painful experience for us. When we understand the will of God, and when we

allow the will of God in our lives, we are ready to do the work of the Lord, to serve the Lord freely.

Addicted to the Ministry of the Saints

In I Corinthians 16:15 it says, “I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first-fruits of Achaia, and they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints.)” This is going one more step above. Accept the will of God, and then you are ready to serve the saints, minister to the saints. He uses the word in KJV, “addicted.” Addicted to the service of God means without it they cannot live. They were so used to devoting their lives to serving, which was their main purpose.

When we do not understand the will of God, the work of the Lord in our life, we will not be able to go to that level. Something is stopping us. Maybe it is half obedience. Something is not pleasing us. Serving the Lord, ministering to the saints is a spiritual step above. Addicted means, spiritually, that you are tuned in to serve others.

There is no self. There is self-denial. You look for others, their needs, and serve them. The Lord Jesus Christ, when He prayed for the Lord's will to be done in His life, then He died for others on the cross of Calvary, and He saved many people. This is the work of the cross that removes the “I” in us. Addicted to the service of the saints is our ministry.

The Testimony of Bakht Singh

Brother Bakht Singh who was a brother at a young age, and I will tell you some things in his life for the glory of God. He studied in Canada, and he completed his engineering degree with two degrees there. He also knew the Lord there, and after knowing the Lord, he never tried to do any job. He decided to go back to India and serve the Lord. After he landed in India and was waiting in a train station, his parents came to meet him. They knew that he was now converted to Christianity, and they did not like this. And they told Bakht Singh, “Leave this God; do not serve

this God. You come to us, and we will take care of you. Leave this God because our community will not accept this God.” You know what he said? “He is my breath; how can I breathe without Him? He is my breath.” Then he served the Lord freely and established many churches. This is the will of God. When you know the Lord, you break the chains. You are free to serve.

One brother prayed, “I do not want to be free. I want to be a servant of Your love.” If you know the love of God, you will not sit quiet. You will not sit quietly. You will serve the Lord one hundred percent. Preach Him, proclaim Him. Praise His glorious name. Nothing in this world can stop us.

Let us pray.

Thank You, Lord, for this time You have given unto us. We praise You; we worship You. We magnify Your glorious, amazing name. Lord, sanctify this word so that we may understand, we may grow in You, we may be profitable for You, Lord. In Jesus precious name I pray. Amen.