

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Sermon Road Map*  
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

**Matthew 11:25-30**  
July 19, 2020

### **Weary? Wear Jesus' yoke for lasting relief. It's light!**

- Have you had enough of this COVID-19? The closures, restrictions, precautions, inconveniences?
- Everyone I know is weary of them. Burdened, if not with the masks, social distancing, then with how to care for themselves and care for others.
- The *Stay at Home* orders changed our routines - time to think - to worry
  - ◆ Stories of those who died from COVID-19 - tears & reflection
  - ◆ Now news of Naya Rivera's accidental death at the age of 33 - sobering
  - ◆ Face our mortality, our unknown date of death, reflect on life & priorities
- Now Jesus steps forward: ***Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...***

### **Weary? Wear Jesus' yoke for lasting relief. It's light!**

- ❖ Jesus reveals why we are weary
  - ***Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...***
    - ◆ The solution reveals the **source** of the **problem**: being **unyoked** with God.
    - ◆ Follow the text backwards.
      - Learn from Jesus - to know the Father - hidden from the *clever* and *learned*
      - Why is the Father pleased to hide *these things from the clever and learned*?
        - It is a just judgment on those who think so highly of themselves making themselves and their own reason their master. Rejecting God's lordship.
        - The childlike humble know they are not in charge - open to know God.
  - We become weary and burdened when we try to do God's job. We're not God.
    - ◆ Plan our life and push forward as if we're in control - it all depends on us.
    - ◆ Worry about all that can go wrong to prevent it. Or fix it after the fact.
    - ◆ It's up to me to keep myself, my kids, my job, and my future safe.
    - ◆ I can and must solve my problems. It's up to me. Disconnected from God.
    - ◆ Stand alone - do it yourself = weary, burdened, burned out, worn out
    - ◆ ***Come to Jesus***, who is God - to be your God. He is God. He wants to be yours.
- Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.***  
***Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...***

- ❖ Jesus reveals the only lasting relief: being yoked to God.
  - *Pastor, you always bring religion into the discussions. Don't you ever go off duty? Can't we just talk about this life - the here and now?*
  - *That's what I am doing - talking about this life. For we have no life when we live it apart from and outside of God. Paul said 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' (Acts 17:28) Life is found in God, even in this life. It's not a matter of spiritual vs. physical - heavenly vs. material. All the Universe belongs to God and he fills it in every way. But living in this space disconnected with God leaves people weary and burdened trying to be their own god. Jesus invites us to come to him so he can fill our everyday tasks with his presence, truth, insights, and wisdom. Yoke to him, we are safe, guided, and blessed with rest, resting in him.*

- Yoked to Jesus, you don't go anywhere without him. What a bodyguard!
- Yoked to Jesus, his word helps you put everything into perspective under him.
- Yoked to Jesus, his promises comfort and drive away fear so rest abounds.
- St. Augustine learned this after a restless youth. *Lord, you made us for yourself. Our hearts are restless until we find rest in you.*
  - ◆ Rest is not merely a blessing from Jesus. It's our new life yoked to Jesus.
  - ◆ Rest comes with the fellowship created through spiritual rebirth - faith's new self is yoked to Jesus, walking in and with Jesus, now and forever.

***Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.***

- ❖ Jesus reveals what makes his burden light.
  - A *light burden* is an oxymoron. It seems like a contradiction. Like *jumbo shrimp*.
  - The challenges that Jesus' faithful followers face may seem like great burdens.
  - So what makes Jesus' yoke/burden light - not at all wearisome?
    - ◆ Yoked to Jesus, he's doing the heavy lifting. He's God. You are not!
      - The more I fix my focus on my yoke partner, the lighter the burden will be.
    - ◆ Jesus is our gentle and humble Lord.
      - He does not motivate with the things that burden us - Law, guilt, and fear!
      - He bore our guilt on the cross. He bore the Law's burden for us.
      - He motivates us with the gospel, that empowers us to walk with him.
    - ◆ Our life's trial and disciplines are carefully administered by our Father
      - He knows us. The burdens are never more than we can bear yoked to him.
      - They are personally tailored to work wonders in the willing to enrich us.
      - This takes our focus off the burden, anticipating the harvest of benefits.
    - ◆ Don't miss what Jesus modeled in verses 25!
      - The indifference of so many Galileans - would this weary Jesus?
        - Our challenge: Will we grow weary/tired? Burdened: are we at fault?
      - Instead Jesus found a legitimate and abundant reason to praise God.
        - ***I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children.***
        - Let's rejoice that God has a message that works in children and continues to work in those with childlike faith - for ourselves and for our ministry.
      - Focus on your burdens = moaning, complaining and agonizing = heavier
      - Lift your eyes off them onto your Savior & praise him for his work = lighter.
  - Recently a friend asked, *Pastor, is God angry with us? Is that why we suffer?*
    - ◆ Anger and punishment are not God's chief purpose.
    - ◆ God never punishes his own. Jesus bore the full punishment for our guilt.
    - ◆ God is testing his people, calling them to **rediscover real relief: rest in Jesus.**

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