

A Follow Up Bible Study

Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Warm Up

Share - How would you explain to a child what a *yoke* is? Its purpose and use?

1. Sermon for July 19, 2020

Text: **Matthew 11:25-30**

Theme: Weary? Wear Jesus' yoke for lasting relief. It's light!

Share your questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon.

Share your questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon **text**.

2. We know Jesus is more than our ticket to heaven. We know he means the world to us. But why? Your *none* friend asks, "I can see that Jesus means a lot to you. What value does he add to your life?" What do you share about Jesus?

3. Matthew 11 may seem like a random series of events that just happen, not building on each other. It was noted in the sermon that working backwards there is a connection.

Let's work our way through **Matthew 11**

11 *After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns.*

² *While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?"*

❖ What was John's question?

⁴ *Jesus answered them, "Go, report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me."*

4. What did Jesus point out to answer John's question? What was Jesus' answer?

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⁷ As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹ So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been advancing forcefully and forceful people are seizing it. ¹³ In fact, all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ If you are willing to receive it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

5. Jesus addressed the crowd who overheard his answer to John’s 2 disciples. Jesus put the spotlight on John and asked the crowd who they thought John was. Then Jesus answered his own question. Who did Jesus say John was? And by saying that, whom did Jesus claim to be?

¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces who call to others, ¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, but you did not dance. We sang a dirge, but you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸ John did not come eating or drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹ But the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘See, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her actions.”

6. The term *generation* can mean the people born and living around the same time. Jesus also uses it to speak about *people who share a common view of life and reality*. Jesus is addressing the popular opinion of his day - how they regarded John and Jesus. **Summarize** their reactions to both John and Jesus.

²⁰ Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles were performed, because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles which were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. ²³ You, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will go down to hell. For if the miracles performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

7. They saw Jesus’ miracles - so many no one had ever nor would ever see so many miracles in any generation. How did they respond? They should have recognize the significance of this flood of miracles. What would be the reasonable and right response? **Hint:** recall how Jesus answered John. Also recall what Nicodemus said to Jesus in John 3:2.

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²⁵ *At that time, Jesus continued, “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. ²⁶ Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. ²⁷ Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.*

8. What is the link between verses 25-26 and v. 27?

- ❖ What is Jesus referring to when he speaks of *these things* (v. 25)? It refers back to something he just spoke about. It’s an *article of previous reference*. That’s why context is critical. What *things*?
- ❖ Why is Jesus the **only source** for this?
- ❖ What does that reveal about any religion **without this Jesus**?
- ❖ What does this say about religions that hope to find God in nature, in meditation, and looking within?
- ❖ There is some good news hidden in the Greek of 25. It is brought out in the EHV, but might go unnoticed. Notice it doesn’t say ***the clever and the learned***. That would refer to all scholars and learned people. The absence of the definite article (*the*) in the Greek means these are qualities, not a class of people condemned to be clueless about God. [Some “Bible Colleges” have sadly avoided scholarship lest they lose the faith, proving they are clueless.]
Who are the *clever and learned* Jesus spoke of earlier in this chapter?
- ❖ Why do *these things remain hidden to the clever and learned*? What qualities prevent them from seeing what is obvious?

²⁸ *“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

9. Who is the source of our rest and what does he do that gives us rest?

- ❖ The Jewish teachers taught that “the Law yoked them to their God.” What made the Law the yoke that tied them to the LORD?

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- ❖ What made the yoke of the Law of Moses so burdensome?

- ❖ What does it mean to be yoked to Jesus? Being yoked to Jesus is *an undoing of the Fall*.
Explain.

- ❖ Jesus promises that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. The Sermon listed 4 things that make Jesus' yoke light. Here are the 4. **Comment** on them. Can you **think of any others**?
 - ❖ Jesus does the heavy lifting.
 - ❖ The one we are yoked to is gentle and humble. He motivates with the gospel = uplifting
 - ❖ Yoked to the Son, we have a Father who personally tailors trials to work wonders = hope
 - ❖ Yoked to Jesus, we learn to look for the legitimate and abundant reasons to praise God.

- ❖ Learning from Jesus is getting to know both the Father and the Son by living in a relationship with them that comes from encountering them in the Bible, then through the Bible seeing their hand and work in our lives. It comes from both listening to Jesus and observing what he did and why, then living in this truth. This comes from reading the Bible and from letting others whom Jesus provided to reveal the Father to us be part of our lives. Coming to Jesus for rest is coming to his faithful church for rest.
How have you found Jesus' rest in church? How have you been a revealer of Jesus' rest?

- ❖ *Lord, you made us for yourself. Our hearts are restless until we find rest in you.* St. Augustine
What does that mean? Why is it true? What's the relationship between *rest* and *peace*?

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First Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23

10. What does Yahweh promise Moses in v. 14? How does this provide what Moses asked for?

11. What role would God's Presence have for Moses, Israel, and other peoples?

12. Why do you think Moses wanted to see Yahweh's glory? And why did Yahweh agree?

13. There was a problem. Yahweh quickly revealed a workaround. What was the problem? What was Yahweh's solution?

14. Yahweh said you can't see my face. Yet God blesses us, "The LORD make his **face** shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD **look on you** with favor and give you peace." What's the difference?

Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

15. Paul exposes the source of our restlessness. What is it?

16. Is Paul making an excuse for himself and us when he says *it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me?*