

Website - Teaching Notes

### Background understanding

Jeremiah 27 - *“buy a yoke - submit to the yoke”*

◁ *Matthew 14 :1-12 - What is going to happen - Share backstory of John’s imprisonment and martyrdom - Herodias “nursing a grudge” - Mark 6:19*

### Matthew 11:1-6 The Passion Translation

**1** *“After Jesus finished giving instructions to his twelve disciples, he went on to minister in different villages throughout the region.*

**2** *Now, while John the Baptizer was in prison, he heard about what Christ was doing among the people, so he sent his disciples to ask him this question:*

**3** *“Are you really the one prophesied would come, or should we still wait for another?”*

**4** *Jesus answered them, “Give John this report: ‘*

**5** *The blind see again, the crippled walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised back to life, and the poor and broken now hear of the hope of salvation!’*

**6** *And tell John that the blessing of heaven comes upon those who never lose their faith in me—no matter what happens!”*”

*“And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”*” NKJV

### Context of Chapter 11

\* John the Baptist imprisoned

\* Jesus statements of honoring John

\* Woe of judgement on unrepentant cities of Korazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum.

\* Time of thinking about Martyrdom -Rejection - Judgement -pretty heavy subjects

• **Robert Cornwall - “the dangerous Illusion of a manageable deity”**

### **3 things we need to guard against when facing pain and disappointment**

• Accuser - The enemy accuses both God and us.

- Not wrong to ask questions but be forewarned you may not get the “right or expected” answer.
- Be aware of WHY and WHAT Questions - because you may NEVER receive an adequate answer.

***6 And tell John that the blessing of heaven comes upon those who never lose their faith in me—no matter what happens!”***

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**1. Peril of Cynicism - distrustful, pessimistic, contemptuous**

**2. Danger of Entitlement - the right/claim to something - what’s owed to me**

**3. Pit of Bitterness - hard to bear - admit or accept**

**◁ The Solution is Submit your life to the Yoke**

**Matthew 11:25-30**

***25 At that time Jesus prayed this prayer: “O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. (Little children)***

***26 Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way!***

***27 “My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”***

***28 Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.***

***29 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.***

***30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”***

**Picture of yoked animals**



Wooden beam across shoulders - as the animals would pull the weight would be borne by their shoulders.

Many times a gracious owner would shape a particular bow just for that particular animal. It would fit that animal perfect.

- **Uses a common instrument that everyone was aware of or had seen repeatedly in their life to compare His Life with rabbinical interpretation of the Law**

**Lets look verse by verse**

***"Jesus equates the Christian life with spiritual rest"***

**The American Commentary on Matthew**

**Vs 25 - certain things are hidden and only reveal to those child-like. Humble enough to realize their burdens are too much.**

Vs 26 - this is God's idea and its pleasing to Him. When we are child-like it brings a smile to the face of God.

Vs 27 - Jesus ALONE reveals the Father-His words not mine. This is STILL as tumbling block to vs 25 "the wise and the clever/learned"

We have a choice to take man's burdens or Jesus' Yoke.

*28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*

\* Jesus earned the right thru suffering, death and then resurrection to speak these verses.

\* COME here - a command

> In order to hear and receive blessings of verses 28-30, we must respond to the Lord command....no response no rest

COME UNTO - He's the one we respond to - not His teachings or miracles but - if we run to someone or something else we will not receive the blessing.

\* ALL - every kind of every one

\* WEARY - those who have become weary or tired thru toil and hard work.

Those who have become tired to the point of losing heart

\* HEAVY LADEN - carry heavy burdens - "to be loaded up with excessive burdens"

\* REST - refresh, revive, end, conclude. To cause to rest, abide or refresh.

Settling into Jesus causes the weariness to cease and the burdens to lighten up.

*The Jewish people struggled under an enormous load of religious expectations and legalities that were laid on them by their false religious leaders. Jesus was saying, "Come, take on yourself the light burden of obedience under the covenant I will seal with my own blood, and I will give you the covenant reward of deep-down peaceful rest; freedom from guilt, the power of sin, and self-striving."*

*If you continue carrying the heaven burden of works-oriented, self-serving Pharisaism, you will never find rest. You were redesigned by God to carry my load, not man's.*

Holman NT Commentary

\* The Law forbid yoking an Ox and Donkey together.

*Vs 29 - 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.*

\* the idea when you take up the yoke that Jesus has for you, then He "removes, takes away, cause someone to no longer experience" - the weariness and heaviness.

\* THE YOKE -" zygos" = balance scale.

>>>>The weight shifts - you are no longer lopsided in your carrying of life's weariness and burdens

*"Under covenant relationship, the believer is not relieved of all work or burdens, but is given work that is appropriate to their abilities, within their limitations. In fact the believer will find the work fulfilling and rewarding rather than toilsome and exhausting"*

Holman NT Commentary

\* LEARN OF ME - let me teach you - making a contrast from the interpretation of the Law from the Pharisees.

>>>We must come - To hear and then appropriate for oneself. To grasp and understand, come to realize

\* Now Word by Word

*I am Gentle and lowly of heart - humble and gentle of heart -*

\* I AM = I continue to be in this state of being or mind. I am modeling this continually before you.

\* GENTLE = not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance - to be considerate of others

\* **HUMBLE-LOWLY** = undistinguished, of no account  
Be of low social status or relative inability to cope

\* **HEART** = the core of my being - who I really am

REMEMBER in vs 25 - Jesus starts this section of Scripture with "thank God you have revealed this to Babes - child-like, babies small children can't make it on their own.

>>>>The balancing act is staying in the Yoke and becoming like Jesus.<<<<

\* **Results of learning to be like Jesus and staying in the yoke....**

\* "you will find rests for your souls"

**FIND** = discover, obtain - begin to experience

"Cessation from an activity one is involved in that is bringing weariness and being burdensome - to obtaining and beginning to experience rest and relief

**REST** = a stopping place - a relief stop in order to rest  
It's not just a stopping of activity but an entering into rest.

**SOULS** = earthly life - inner this life self, different from spirit or body.  
Mind - Will and Emotions

\* This is more than a physical weariness or being tired or burden with our daily lives. But a Soulsh weariness and burden that can only be relieved thru Yoking yourself with Jesus

***Verse 30***

***For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."***

"Jesus yoke is not lighter and easier because He demands less, but because He bears more of the load with us."

Easier to wear

\* **YOKE**

The balance scale - loaded down with obligations -

Contrast of Mankind's natural Yoke - balancing act

\* IS

To become, possible, happen, remain, stay

\* EASY

Defined as: kind, loving, good, merciful, morally right, sweet, tasty, bountiful

*"The yoke of Christ's commands is an easy yoke; it is not only easy, but gracious, so the word signifies; it is sweet and pleasant; there is nothing in it to gall the yielding neck, nothing to hurt us, but, on the contrary, must to refresh us. It is a yoke that is lined with love. Such is the nature of all Christ's commands, so reasonable in themselves, so profitable to us, and all summed up in one word, and that a sweet word, love. So powerful are the assistances he gives us, so suitable the encouragements, and so strong the consolations, that are to be found in the way of duty, that we may truly say, it is a yoke of pleasantness."*

*Matthew Henry*

Weary vs Easy

\* BURDEN

The load, the cargo, the freight

\* LIGHTLY

Light to bear and move, sight, nimble, insignificant

Light - Compared to the alternative

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles (momentary and light afflictions - NASV) are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

Burdened down vs Light

◇ CLOSE ???

John 21:17-19

***17 A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep.***

***18 "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go."***

***19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."***