

SUBMITTING TO THE YOKE THAT GIVES REST

Matthew 11:25-30

Discipleship–What does it mean to become a faithful follower of Christ?

Matthew–What happened to God’s plan?

Messiah came–demonstrated Who He is.

Israel rejected Him.

He rejected them and started a new program–the church.

MESSIANIC REJECTION FORESEEN 11-13:52

TWO ALTERNATIVES 11

John’s choice 11:1-15

Though Jesus didn’t fulfill all his expectations, he was willing to accept the evidence and trust Him

Others’ choice 11:16-24

Israel’s leaders rejected both Jesus and John, because neither would conform to their plans.

Invitation to become a faithful follower of Jesus 11:25-30

The presentation of two alternatives concludes with an invitation to come to Him and find rest in Him.

Jesus invites people who were crushed beneath the weight of the law–trying to follow as disciples of Moses, under the tutelage of the Pharisees who just rejected Him.

We will never find relief from the load of the law by following in their footsteps. Neither Moses nor the Pharisees can give rest from the load that Judaism has placed on them.

We only find peace by acknowledging Him, and submitting to His authority.

Jesus’ invitation to follow Him reveals **TWO GREAT PARADOXES**

–seemingly illogical contradictions!

1. GOD REVEALS PROFOUND TRUTH TO SIMPLE PEOPLE 25-27

25 At that time Jesus answered, “I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, Because You hid these things from “wise” and “understanding” people and You revealed them to babes.

26 “Yes, Father, for this was pleasing to You. 27 “All things have been committed to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him

God reveals the truth to the least likely people 25-27

He hides it from “sophisticated people” (wise, “smart,” “discerning”) . 25a

People that everybody looks up to–they just don’t seem to get it!!!

Why did they reject Him? Because they were blind!

Those who think they’re smart–who think they can see–are really blind to the truth!

He reveals it to unsophisticated people. (the “immature,” unwise) 25b-26

God reveals *Himself* to people the Son chooses 27

Even within this invitation to follow Him, Jesus observes that none will accept it except those God calls.

Those who understand the truth and follow Him aren't the smart, sophisticated, prestigious leaders the world respects, but simple people God has chosen to make wise.

It always seems God could do so much better!

Why doesn't He pick smarter people?!!

2. ONLY PEOPLE WHO SUBMIT TO HIS YOKE FIND REAL REST 28-30

28 "Come to Me, all who are exhausted and loaded down, and I will give you rest. 29 "Submit to My yoke and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "For My yoke is easy (kind, gentle, merciful, good), and My load is light." (light, easy to carry)

Whoever is exhausted and loaded down is urged to come to Christ to find rest 28

Jesus calls all who would be His disciples to "Come to Him!"

Prerequisite: to be exhausted and loaded down

Invitation: Come to Him

Result: He will give you rest

Everyone who is worn out and loaded down is invited to come follow Him and find rest in Him. *Do YOU know anyone like that?*

Submit to His yoke 29a

Logical assumption: submitting to a yoke puts us under a burden.

Submitting to the Pharisees' yoke placed people under a heavy burden; no one could carry it!

They devised a load of 365 prohibitions and 250 commands.

Many submitted to the yoke of the Pharisees, and considered themselves disciples of the Pharisees.

They carried a heavy load!

Matt. 23:4—"They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them!"

At Jerusalem council, (Acts 15:10) Peter asked, "Why should we put a yoke on the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"

Their law and traditions didn't give liberty; they brought *bondage*.

In contrast to logical assumption, and popular opinion,

Submitting to Jesus' yoke, brings us genuine rest.

Our Lord promised that when we submit to His yoke, He will give us rest!

When we take on His yoke, we discover that it actually *lightens*

our load.

When we take on His yoke, He becomes our yoke mate.

We haven't understood this lesson, because **we've missed the most important piece:**

Pentecost: In his college days used to go out to teach in a rural S.S. One afternoon he was riding with a farmer to visit a home in the community. They saw an old farmer plowing with a team of oxen. One was a huge ox and the other a small bullock. The ox towered over the little bullock. He was surprised to see a farmer trying to plow with two unequal animals in the yoke. He commented on it to the farmer he was riding with. He stopped the car and said, "I want you to notice something. See how those traces are hooked to the yoke? The large ox is pulling all the weight. That little bullock is being broken into the yoke but he is not actually pulling any weight."

The whole idea of the yoke is that two are paired together!

Lit., = "anything that joins two bodies."

In the normal yoke, the load is equally distributed between 2 yoked together.

Jesus wants us to be yoked together with Him!

When we are yoked with Christ, He bears the load but we share in the joy of pulling together with Him, without the burden of the load!

We are united with Him.

As we are joined together with Him, He lives His life out through us.
He becomes our life and our strength.

He provides the energy to carry the load He places on us.

The tragedy is that some of us have never been broken in to the yoke!

How do we take His yoke upon us? The key is in the next phrase.

Like the young bullock, we are yoked with Him, and thereby learn
-we are broken to the yoke!

We learn from Him the joy of submitting to the yoke and being united with Him.

Learn from Him 29b

To "learn from Him" is to be discipled by Him.

"Let me teach you what you need to know."

Let me guide you and direct your activities.

Let me set the direction for your life.

The Pharisees wanted to pile on additional heavy burdens.

Jesus' yoke isn't like that!

Jesus' yoke is consistent with Who He is: 30

His load is easy because of the nature of the One we're uniting with:

Jesus is gentle and humble

Jesus is the source of rest.

Jesus' yoke is a gentle, merciful yoke

Jesus' load is light (easy to carry)

Jesus is calling us to become His disciples, to submit to His yoke.

Accepting His call to discipleship *looks like* we're submitting to a heavy load.

Accepting His call to discipleship *IS* submitting to His load.

Accepting His call to discipleship makes our load lighter.

Those who submit to His yoke discover that load becomes *lighter*.

He comes alongside and carries the load!

He wants us to be broken to His yoke and walk with Him!

Now we have to make a choice.

Will we submit to His authority? To His Word?

Will we become His disciples?

It's possible to trust Christ and receive eternal life without becoming a "follower" of Christ.

He wants us to become a disciple—to submit to His authority and acknowledge His right to rule over us.

A disciple puts himself totally at Jesus' disposal and follows Him.

An ox doesn't accidentally slip into a yoke. He must submit to it.

We become Jesus' disciples when we decide that we will follow Him and submit to His rule over our life.

Some of us have accepted His gift of eternal life but have no right to call ourselves His disciples.

When He prepares to slip His yoke around our neck to join us to Himself, we refuse to be brought into submission to *anyone*, even Jesus Christ!

Until we're yoked to Him, we will never be His disciple.

Until we're yoked to Him, we'll never experience rest either!

Jesus invites us: *"Take my yoke upon you.*

Learn from coming alongside of me and pulling the load together with me!

Let me teach you how to carry the load!

Submit to my Word.

Acknowledge my authority over your life.

Only then will you enjoy true rest!"

Are you restless? Worn out? Loaded down? Tired of trying to have it your way?

Submit to His yoke—learn to walk yoked to Him.

Find out what it's like to enjoy real rest!