

## 2143 - The GOSPEL for LOSERS - Mat 11:28-30

PRELIMS. I have often been upset by those who say ‘Christianity is nothing but a **crutch** for **weak** people’! It’s only when people are in trouble or need support, that they turn to religion. ‘Christianity’, they say, ‘is for **losers**’! The strong, the wealthy, those who ‘have their life together’ do not **need** religion, they cope fine without religion. ‘The gospel is **only for losers**’, is their cry! That can be very **annoying**!

However, in looking up the Scriptures I find that they are **right**! The gospel **IS** for **losers**! Our text *Come unto Me...I will give you rest... take My yoke is easy...My burden is light?* was **addressed** to those who were **labouring and...heavy laden**! Those who are **struggling**!

**Yes**, the gospel offer is **indeed for** the weak and struggling! The **reason why** the strong, the mighty, the wealthy are very often **not interested** in the gospel is because in their **present circumstances**, they **are able** to cope. With their health, strength, ability and their control of everything, they have **no need** for a crutch - everything is fine. Whereas the weak and struggling person **knows full well**, everything is **not** fine for they are regularly **confronted** with their struggle is. Our **present circumstances** often **dictate** as to whether we are ‘**winners**’ or ‘**losers**’! Whether we are **strong** or **weak**!

The problem is that the strong and healthy, ‘**forget**’ things **can** - and **will change**! What do I mean? They forget that one day they **will** face a situation that requires more, **very much more**, than **what they have**, if all they have is material and earthly! **What day** is that? The day they meet their **Maker** when they **die**! We will all likely struggle for breath - we **all will ultimately need** a crutch to survive. But it is what happens **after that** we will need a **crutch**! What **after death** ?

*it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment* [Heb 9:27] It is to **this** judgment of God’s, that many of the strong, healthy, wealthy, and ‘have it all together’ type are **unprepared** and will **struggle**! They will need a **crutch**! For **who can** stand before God? *Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God?* [1S6:20] \*There are **three crutches** which are **on offer** to us - but by the time of God’s judgment its **too late**! We will **have already** made our **final** choice of a crutch! \*In this passage, Jesus reminds us of **His mission**

to this world. He has come to **offer** us a crutch! For **losers/winners!** The **three crutches** on offer to us **now** are: (1) We can go on life's journey all **on our own!** We can struggle on, doing our own thing, working things out for ourselves. **Ignoring** and **neglecting** all advice. No need to ask anyone – just do what you think is best. Do it all your own way. Just use your **own** ideas, your **own** philosophy, whatever you think best! That is a **real choice** – going it **alone!** Its a **choice** which **many people** make - in fact maybe the **most popular!** Its the choice Eve and Adam made - 'Thank You, I'll decide for myself!'

Then (2) We can get the crutch of **humanism!** Help from **another** human! In the **normal** course of life, that someone, will be your **parents!** They are there to **give** you **advice.** That is the way God **arranged** life. Everyone, but everyone has parents! It was the way God **meant** it to be. It is the way He **wanted** it to be – to grow up in **families!** For some, **sadly,** their parents are not a help at all! The very opposite. They may be drug addicts, alcoholics, selfish, uncaring, living it up - or even **dead!** So the source that God initially planned to be a help and blessing, may just not be there for you! Sad.

There are of course plenty offers of human help from all around. You have **relatives** and **friends** who can 'pick up the tab' and come and help and give you advice, and guide you. Then you have the **Social Services** – and Government sponsored **agencies!** You have the **wealth of human learning** with their secular materialistic philosophies. There is actually no end from whom you may derive help. Our **libraries** and **bookshops** are full of sources of help to enable us to travel through life. There are **many** human **choices.**

And you may indeed find **great help** from **all** of these sources. We need to **thank** God for the many sources today of blessing there are in our world. **I know** of many people who have had great help from all of these sources! \*I also know of many people who have derived a **great deal** of **harm** and **damage** from some of these sources – as indeed from parents! The trouble is, '**No one** knows **everything** about life', and **no one** knows the **future,** what lies ahead for each of us! Yes, it's a great **disadvantage** being **finite** - being a **creature!**

And then (3) we have **another crutch!** The choice which Jesus offers

us here *Take My yoke...learn from Me...you will find rest...My yoke is easy, and My burden is light!* Jesus is saying 'Take My **help**, I can **really help** you!' You may **not think** I can, but I can! You may have **heard** all kind of things about My yoke but I tell you it is easy/light!

## **A YOKE**

A yoke is for **sharing a load**. It is a device for **assisting/helping** a bearer with a burden to lighten the weight. **APP** Sadly some yokes **chaff** and make things worse for us - but not Christ's! Some agencies designed to help us, actually make things worse! X's yoke is **designed** for **sinful** human beings who have **surrendered** their lives to X!

The word 'easy' in Greek here means 'well-fitting'! In Palestine, all yokes were made of wood. The ox would be brought to the carpenters shop to be **fitted** and **measured** – just as we today get **measured** for a **suit**! The ox would be brought back to have the yoke 'tried-on'/adjusted. The carpenter would have to ensure that there would be **no chaffing** – everything would have to fit perfectly! Yokes, were in actual fact 'tailor-made' for each animal.

Now as we know, Jesus was a **Carpenter**. There is a **legend** that His father was the **best yoke-maker** in all of Galilee! From all around they would come and buy their yokes from him. The legend says that above His Father's shop there was a **sign** 'My Yokes Fit Well'!

Jesus knew what He was talking about when He made this invitation. He knew He was offering help of the best possible kind! He was speaking to those who **laboured** and were **heavy laden** - and there were plenty of them around Jesus at that time! He **invited** them *Come to Me!* Jesus had **nothing** of this world's goods, not a bed, not a pillow, but He has **salvation** to **give** us - as a **gift**! He is offering us life, **eternal** life. It is **not just advice** He offers - He offers **Himself, salvation itself**. **APP** Many, many people, all over the world, in all ages, have received **everlasting life** from Jesus. Many many people have benefited from taking His yoke and following Him. All kinds of people, all classes of people, all cultures of people have found **new life in Christ!** *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish!!* It is a gift that we must **receive!** We must take it, **Take** My yoke... It is important to realise that it **is** a **yoke** He is offering. You will still have

to live **your** life – the life He has set out for you, which may be **difficult!** We must *run the race that is set before you!* Everyone has a road **they** have to go on! Your **circumstances** will **not** change because you have taken X's yoke – the yoke is to **help** you, on **your** road – to help you with **your struggles**. Some people have the mistaken understanding that becoming a Xn means their troubles will vanish! No! You get **help with** your problems, Christ is **with you in** them. You certainly will get rid of many problems, but you will still have problems, and if you **ignore** His advice, you will **still suffer!**

\*So, we are **all 'losers'** who have a choice of **3 crutches** how we face the struggle of life, Going it alone; Finding Someone else to help you; or choosing Jesus as *the Way the Truth and the Life!* Jesus claims to be **all three**, He is the **Way**, the **Truth**, the **Life**, and He is!

**NO 'STING IN THE TAIL'** - Now very often, when you contact some sources of help, on the internet, or phone, or replying to some **advertisement**, you think you got a **real bargain**, but after a while you discover there is a 'Sting in the Tail'! With Jesus, there is the **very opposite** to a 'Sting in the Tail'! Once you come to Him, once you **receive** Him and start **listening** to Him, once you start **following** Him, you will discover that He has **far more** to offer us! Listen to Him *I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly* [John 10:10] Many Xns **don't have** it abundantly! Because they **disobey!** There is *peace of God, which surpasses all understanding* [Phil 4:7]

There **are** those who receive **advice** from Jesus but do not take Jesus Himself! Many people **agree** with what Jesus **said** – but do not give **themselves** up to Him! They do not go the '**extra mile**'! They believe so much – but **not everything**. They say He is a wonderful person, wonderful teacher, but He is **not** God's Son, He is **not** God! He did **not** die for our sins. They **pick** and **choose** what they **like** in the Scriptures! How **very sad!** Such people **fail** of the grace of God. Remember it was said to Xns: *while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it* [Heb 4:1]. And we **appeal to you** not to receive the grace of God in **vain** [2Cor 6:1]. \*Do you **need a crutch**? Or are you okay! *Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance*