

15 September 2022
Take my yoke upon you

Matthew 11:28-30: There are (3) commands in this text from our Lord:

"Come unto me", "Take my yoke upon you", and "Learn of me"
For all WHO DO the commands of Christ, "REST" is promised to your souls.

Where are we in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus here in Matthew 11?

Jesus has just finished calling, commanding, sending His 12 apostles to preach "the Kingdom of heaven is at hand".

Matthew 11:25-27: At this point, the Lord Jesus turned to the multitude and CALLED every weary and heavy-laden soul to come to Him and to put their trust in Him. READ: Matthew 11:28

The Lord Jesus knew the hearts of the people of Israel of that day, how they were forced to live under the oppression, cruelty, and condemning eyes of the religious leaders of that day.

Not only were the people NOT ABLE to keep the Law of Moses, but they also had to contend with the man-made traditions and self-made rules of the scribes and Pharisees, who were classic religious hypocrites who did not practice what they themselves preached.

Matthew 23:4: "For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers"

So here are the people of Israel, all the writings of Moses and the prophets had been passed down and entrusted to them. In these OT Scriptures was the promise of "The Messiah" who would come to liberate and save the people from their enemies.

But the salvation and deliverance that the people had been trained to look for WAS NOT THE SALVATION and DELIVERANCE promised by the God of Israel in the Word.

The scribes and Pharisees taught the people that Caesar and the Roman Army were their enemies, and WHEN their Messiah did come, they would know Him as a Mighty Prince who would ride into Jerusalem on a white horse and defeat and dethrone Caesar and his armies.

But Jesus did not come to save the people from the oppression of Caesar or of the Romans, He came to save His people from their sins, from the bondage and curse of the law, from the oppression of their religious leaders, and from the tyranny, cruelty, and captivity of Satan who was their real enemy!

After Jesus sternly rebuked and denounced the cities where most of His mighty works were done, where He preached the Kingdom of

Heaven was at hand, to people who were bewitched and oppressed by the scribes and Pharisees... Who did not believe on Him...

He turned again to the multitudes and presented Himself to them as their Messiah with this gracious command: "Come unto ME"! It's the same as saying, "Follow me" or "Come you after me".

For TOO LONG you have struggled under religious burdens that you cannot carry, come you after me; I came to remove your heavy and unbearable yokes of the law and the guilt of your sins from off your necks!

Jesus didn't say, "Come unto me" all of you who could care less about whether you've sinned or no, come to me you who feel no burdens, no grief, and no sorrows for your sins, NO!

But COME unto me ALL of you who KNOW that you've sinned against God; come unto me all of you who know you cannot keep the law of Moses, you know that YOU CANNOT measure up to what God requires of you! Come unto me ALL of you who are groaning under the weight, burden, and shame of your sins; COME TO ME, ALL OF YOU who "groan under the sorrow, pain, and grief" of your sins!

Come unto me ALL of you who are ready to acknowledge your sins against God, you, and ready to forsake your sins and turn away from your sins and cry out to God for mercy, and forgiveness!

COME UNTO ME, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST! Only "The True Messiah and Sovereign King of Heaven" could assert such authority and make such a gracious promise!

This promise stands true today to ALL who will come to Christ, to all who will turn from their wicked and sinful ways to Christ!

What is so sad to see IN SO MANY lost sinners (is) they are not at all concerned about their lost condition or that they have sinned against God, or that they are enemies of God, condemned by God, and in constant danger of His wrath and eternal damnation! John 3:36

I love the story about the man in the middle of the desert (who had water), who saw others in the distance and cried out: I've got water! One of them replied, I'm not thirsty! And so, the man replied: I'm not talking to you!

Isaiah 55:1-4, Mark 10:13-16, 17-27, John 14:6

Come to me, saith the Lord Jesus, YOU who are struggling in your sins, ruining your life, turning over a new leaf every other day, but to no avail, forsake your sins, forsake your foolishness, and live! Stop wasting your life and laboring for that which will NEVER satisfy you, COME TO ME, and I will give rest to your souls!

But there was more in Jesus' gracious command to laboring and heavy laden sinners, there is MORE that I require of you, saith Jesus who do "Come to me" if you would INDEED find rest to your souls!

I will remove your burdens, the heavy yokes of the law of Moses and of your sins from off your necks, BUT IF you would have MY REST to your souls, you must:

"TAKE MY YOKE upon you, and LEARN OF ME"

Learn here that "Coming to Christ by faith" (or believing-trusting Christ) is immediately followed by obedience to Christ. EVERY born-again Christian is commanded to actively "TAKE UP" the yoke of Christ and put it on.

What is a yoke? A yoke is designed to bring one under submission, it controls, trains, and teaches the animals IN IT to follow the direction of their master as He pulls the reins this way or that way.

There are MANY who profess to BELIEVE on Christ, but they have NOT submitted themselves to Christ and His commands. Have TAKEN UP Christ's yoke? Will you be controlled by Christ? Will you willingly submit to Him and serve Him in your life? If you will not be controlled by Christ, you cannot be His disciple.

Those who will not be controlled and commanded by Christ as their Lord most certainly do not believe on Christ as their Savior!

To believe on Christ is NOT something that happened in the past, it is something that continues to happen in your life. It is NOT I believed on Christ, back then, but I believe on Christ NOW and TODAY!

I didn't take up Christ's yoke back then, I took it up yesterday, and I take it up today that I might LEARN of Christ! To take up Christ's yoke is to confess that you willingly submit yourself to His Lordship and authority; this is the Christian's daily and delightful task, but difficult to those who refuse to come under submission to Christ's yoke.

Luke 14:25-33, Matthew 16:24-26, 1 Peter 2:21-23

To take up the yoke of Christ is to willingly submit yourself to His authority, to be commanded, trained, and controlled by Christ! You say, I am a Christian! I am a believer in Jesus Christ! YES, that is good... but have you taken up His yoke upon you?

Learn of me or LEARN FROM ME:

I will not teach you with cruelty, arrogance, and harshness like the scribes and Pharisees, I will not present to you a Christianity that is unattainable and unapproachable. But I will graciously help you every step of the way and be patient with you AS YOU LEARN OF ME! Philippians 2:1-11

You will learn and know that I am meek and lowly in heart, for that is the kind of Teacher and Lord that I am, I will teach you with humility, kindness, and compassion.

That is what makes my yoke delightful, easy, and light, because I am full of grace and very patient and longsuffering towards you.

The more accustomed you become to my yoke, the more you will find rest unto your souls.

"For I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"

Jesus did not present Himself as a "high and lofty teacher", though He most certainly could have, but no, He was a lowly, meek, humble, and a patient and loving teacher. Oh, what a lesson for me!

Come to Christ, (keep coming), take Christ's yoke upon you if you would learn Christ.