

An Easy Yoke, A Light Burden?

Matt. 11:28-30

Introduction:

- A. An invitation to a burdened people. (v. 28).
 - 1. Some burdened by Old Law. (Gal. 5:1,4).
 - 2. Some burdened by human tradition. (Matt. 23:4).
 - 3. Some burdened by sin.
 - 4. Some burdened by difficulties of life.
- B. An invitation to be unburdened and burdened at same time. (vv.29).
- C. An invitation that raises some real questions that we might like to ask the Lord:

Discussion:

I. Lord, What Do You Mean — *Easy* and *Light*?

- A. Look at burdens of Paul.
 - 1. Sacrifice a promising career. (cf. Phil. 3:5-7).
 - 2. Exposed to many dangers. (2 Cor. 11:23-29).
 - 3. Relinquished personal rights. (1 Cor. 8:13-9:13).
- B. Look at burdens of many early Christians.
 - 1. Hardships.
 - a. Many sold their property. (Acts 2:44,45; 4:34-5:11).
 - b. Many went to jail. (Acts 4:1-4; 8:3; 16:25ff; 2 Cor. 11:23).
 - c. Many gave up livelihood (Acts 8; 19:17-19; cf. trade guilds).
 - d. Many physically abused unto death. (Acts 7; 12:2).
 - 2. Duties.
 - a. Expected to assemble, even when not convenient. (Acts 20:6,7; Heb. 10:25).
 - b. Expected to always obey God, even against the norms of society (Phil. 2:12-15)

II. Lord, How Can These Burdens Be Made *Light* And *Easy*?

- A. Not by casting off yoke and burden as some try to do:
 - 1. By denying or ignoring responsibilities.
 - 2. By shifting responsibility. (cf. Ezek. 18:1-5,20).
 - 3. By compromise. (cf. Heb. 11:35).
- B. Not by half-heartedly commitment—only increases burden.
 - 1. Know responsibility, but do not want to do it.
 - 2. Endure hardships, but constantly murmuring.
- C. But, by following the Lord's example of self-emptying mentality. (v. 29; Phil 2:5-8).
 - 1. When one has obeyed all, thinks has only done his duty. (Lk. 17:10).
 - 2. When one has given all he can, wishes could give more. (2 Cor. 8:3-5).
 - 3. When one has given up whole world, thinks he has missed nothing. (Phil. 3:8).
 - 4. When one has suffered beyond measure, thinks it is light. (2 Cor. 4:17-5:1).
 - 5. Says, "Not my will, but thy will" in all things.

Conclusion:

- A. Are you burdened by sin? Obey for the forgiveness of sin.
- B. Are you burdened by demands of being a Christian? Empty yourself.
- C. "Come unto me...."