

TAKE HIS YOKE UPON US

Math 11: ²⁸Come Unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest .²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

There are two distinct invitations and two promises of "rest." The first "rest" Jesus promises to "give" is the eternal life of His Spirit. It is the refreshing that comes from being in His presence. It is the salvation of our spirit.

When God quickens our spirit, He puts a yes in our spirit to His will. When our spirit is made alive with His eternal life our soul becomes aware of His divine nature, and we taste of His love, joy, peace and all the rest of His divine attributes as our senses become aware of His Presence.

The second rest is the salvation of our soul, that comes as we obey His word through His Spirit, and His word become engraved in our heart.

The second "rest" is that which He enables us to find when we meet the two following conditions.

After we come to Him, and receive His eternal life, then He commands us 1- to take His yoke upon us, and 2- learn of Him.

Then Jesus states two things about Himself, He says that I am meek and lowly of heart. "Take my yoke *on* you" "I am meek." "Learn of me" "I am lowly in heart."

There is no way we can understand these statements of Jesus about Himself unless we see them in terms of His relationship to His Heavenly Father.

Jesus is asking us to relate ourselves to Him, in the same way that He is related to the Heavenly Father.

Everything that Jesus said and did, He did through the Spirit of God empowering Him. The infilling and the out-flowing of the Spirit of God in Him and upon Him

The first purpose of Discipleship is to take His yoke upon us, even as He is "yoked" to the Father. This will enable Him to work the quality of "meekness" in us, even as He is "meek."

A "yoke" is the "brace" that "ties" two animals together in such a way that makes it imperative for them to move and work AS ONE; making a "team," as a "yoke of oxen."

To "take Jesus' yoke" means that we give up our "right" to our self. We were bought and paid for with a price. Our spirit and our body now belong to the Lord and now He is asking us to yield our soul to Him. Our soul is our self, our individual life. We give up our right to any independent action on our own and we dedicate ourselves to the will of God and His will alone.

It means that we "yield" to the Lord our self-will. It is what the world calls their rights. All so called "self rights" which the human nature in each of us instinctively wants to "exercise"-the "rights" to be self-assertive, to be selfishly ambitious, to take offense, to "get even", to retaliate, to take things into our own hands, to get angry and "lash out" at someone (in word or deed), to always justify ourselves and

blame someone else, to "put someone else down," to try to promote ourselves, to get resentful or bitter, to try to promote ourselves in the eyes of others. To say and do whatever we want.

Our yoking to Jesus is not a yoking of equals. Jesus did NOT say "let's get yoked together." Jesus said, "TAKE MY YOKE upon you." He is the Lord (master—boss), and we are His servant, or more accurately, His "love-slaves."

Although we are "workers together with Him" (II Cor. 6:1), Only He initiates the work or "spiritual activity." We cease from our "labors" (Heb. 4:10) and enter into HIS.

We desire and seek to function ONLY in those ministries and or gifts He has ordained for us. He is our KING and He takes good care of us as citizens of His Kingdom. He is our leader, provider, advocate, lawyer, manager, judge, rewarder, promoter, and/or anything else that we need.

The truly "meek" person has learned the secret of total YIELDING and TRUSTING. "Meekness" is NOT "weakness;" it is rather "STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL." Like the animal whose self-will has been "broken" (not the "spirit"—inner "drive" or "vital force"), and yields to the "yoke" (as the oxen) or to the "bit and bridle; saddle or harness" depending on use (as the horse), and then waits for and responds to the command of the owner (master).

What a beautiful sight is a horse hitched to a carriage, standing at attention, waiting for his master; head erect, neck arched, nostrils expanded—with maybe a "snort" or two, as the head shakes the mane a little; muscles "rippling" with strength; yet, not a movement forward

until the master arrives, takes his place in the seat, picks up the reins, and gives the command. That is a picture [of] "strength under control."

Jesus was the perfect pattern of meekness throughout His life. However, from the time that He allowed Himself to be taken "captive" in the garden until He "dismissed" His Spirit on the cross, His "meekness" was severely put to the test. For at any time He had the power to instantly vanquish His "captors" and set Himself free. Even on the cross, He could have exercised the power to dislodge Himself from the spikes which held Him, instantly heal His body and go free. But Jesus was unequivocally "yoked" to the Father's will, even obedient unto the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8), that He refused to exercise His "right" NOT to die.

Since He had never sinned He was not subject to death and did not have to die—no fault was found in Him (Luke 23:4, 14). He refused to exercise that which people think is a "right"—to retaliate again His tormentors and crucifiers. A scripture which so beautifully expresses this is found in I Pet. 2:23. Quoting from the Amplified version: "When He was reviled and Insulted, He did not revile or offer insult in return; when He was abused and suffered, He made no threats {of vengeance}; but He trusted {Himself and everything} to Him Who judges fairly."

Dozens of examples and scriptures could be given to illustrate throughout His life and ministry that Jesus was truly speaking the truth when He said "I am meek" (Mt. 11:29), but I will quote just one scripture: "Jesus answered and said unto them, *Truly, Truly*, I say *toyou*, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things soever he does, these also does the Son likewise" (John 5:19).

He "couldn't" do anything independent of the Father because of His COMMITMENT to be "yoked" to the Father's will. His total yielding of any "rights" of His own, and His total TRUST that the Father would "espouse His cause" in everything—that was His "meekness"—
STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL.