

# Sermon Notes

## Lessons Learned: Part 14

### September 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- **This Week: My Yoke is Easy**
- As a new believer I wasn't sure what to think about verses like **Matthew 11:28-30**.
  - o My in-laws had this engraved on a piece of wood in their living room.
  - o But Scriptures like **Matthew 10:37-39** and **Luke 17:1-10** came to mind, among others.
    - And besides, everyone was talking about how hard being a Christian was!!!
  - o Then on the other side there are Scriptures like **John 10:10**, **Prov 3:1-2**, **Phil 4:6-7**, etc.
    - How do we make sense of all of this??
- I got a little bit of a clue when remembering something odd my mom told me when I was a kid.
  - o Re: doing the dishes she said "It's just easier to do them right away." I disagreed!
    - But then I grew up and I realized there were two types of easy: now easy and future easy.
      - We must choose between the pain of discipline or the pain of regret.
  - o Apply this to **Luke 17:3-5**.
    - It's easier to just let it go than to rebuke...in the short term. But you sacrifice a better future.
    - It's easier to hold a grudge than forgive...in the short term. But you sacrifice a better future.
- Most of us know this, but we fall into the next trap: Overdo, Underdo.
  - o We let discipline go for a while, feel guilty, and try to make up for it, which burns us out, so we just let it go, reap the consequences, try to make up for it, get exhausted...and on and on.
  - o Living for Jesus is more of a marathon than a sprint.
    - The marathon starts when the gun goes off. You have to run each mile to finish.
  - o A consistent, faithful life of serving Jesus brings the "light and easy" payoff.
    - True for the individual, but also for the group.
    - For example, if everyone did the 4 things and gave, then church would be light and easy!!!
- Two major points to understand so you can take hold of "light and easy" in your life.
- 1) Put the other yokes down. It's an exchange, not adding another thing on.
  - o Remember **Ephesians 4:22-24** from a couple weeks ago. Take off the old to put on the new.
  - o Obvious things to take off: sinful self-centered life, wrong attitudes, dark heart.
  - o There are other yokes to take off as well:
    - Grudges and unforgiveness. People pleasing. Judging everything. Controlling others. Worry. Needing to measure up to other people's expectations. (The old quote: buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like.) Insecurity. Feeling never good enough. Other people's yokes. Victim mentality. So many others!!!
- 2) When finding your place in the Kingdom of God, do what gives you energy.
  - o Difference between me and Tranette. Saul's armor.
  - o We want to make that easy for you at Good Hope! Volunteer ministry philosophy.
  - o Small Groups idea from Church of the Highlands. That's pretty light and easy!!
  - o This will build you up rather than burn you out!!
    - The higher the calling, the more you need to give with this one.
- What if every Christian did this. Took off the wrong yokes and actually carried their yoke daily.
  - o You would be free and we would be strong.
    - What would this mean for missions and evangelism? For families? For society??
- His yoke is easy and his burden is light. But you must carry your burden.
- Our Communion Scripture will be **Colossian 1:9-14**.
  - o Jesus has qualified us by his sacrifice. We are forgiven and redeemed. So, let's live lives worthy of the Lord, full of wisdom and understanding.
- Get personal prayer by emailing [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag).