

# Sermon Notes

## Power of the Word Part 6

### February 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- **Last Time: Forgiveness**
  - We are people of the cross, people of mercy, forgiveness, and healing. Doesn't mean it's easy...
- **Week 6: His Yoke is Easy??**
  - Jesus said something quite remarkable in **Matthew 11:28-30**. Was Jesus lying?
    - Life didn't get easier for Saul/Paul. **2 Cor 11:24-28** for example.
      - But, Paul also said **Phil 4:12-13** and **2 Cor 7:4**. So...
    - Jesus himself said we would have trouble! **John 16:33**
      - But in the same breath he said to take heart because he has overcome the world!!
- So, which is it?? Easy and light, life more abundantly; or persecution, hardship, suffering, struggle??!??
- Problem: Some people run from God because they think walking with God will be worse than running.
  - Reality is, your life is way better with Jesus!! But, not necessarily easier in the superficial sense.
- Goal: To help you receive the promise of **Matthew 11:28-30**.
  - **John 8:31-32** comes into play again. What did I learn while trying to take hold of this promise?
- 5 Abundant Life Skills necessary to access this rest for your soul. The L.I.G.H.T. and easy burden.
  - L) Lay Your Other Yokes Down.
    - Big mistake is just adding "follow Jesus" onto your pile of heavy yokes. That isn't it.
    - Lay down: guilt and shame, need to fix everything, other people's opinions, hurt and wounds, pride and need to prove yourself, lies you believe, sin's control over you, etc., etc.
  - I) Inspect Your Load.
    - Do you have any stowaways you are carrying? I picked up some things I shouldn't have.
    - Taking on too much responsibility...messiah complex. It's not all on your shoulders.
    - Saul's Armor. False expectations/constraints from religion/church/theology.
    - Whatever is not the yoke Jesus put on you for today needs to go.
  - G) GET BETTER!!
    - Be learning and growing. Have a growth mindset. That is God's plan for you!!
      - Being stuck in perpetual failure/disappointment isn't where you want to be.
      - Wavering in parts 1, 2, or 3 of John 8:31-32 is not where the victory is.
      - There is little more frustrating than the incompetent Christian life. You keep all your past problems, add new ones, with no overcoming, no power, and no victory!
  - H) Hold Jesus Close.
    - In other words, abide in the vine. **John 15:4-5**.
      - If "Get Better" is **Phil 2:12**, then this is **Phil 2:13**.
      - Some people like v12, others v13...but they are inseparable.
      - This is where empowerment from the Holy Spirit comes in.
      - Also, this is where you re-inspect your load. **Phil 4:4-7**. Keep laying burdens down.
  - T) Take Hold of Your Calling. **Phil 3:12-14**
    - Why did Christ Jesus take hold of you?? This is where the fun kicks in!!
    - What gives you energy? What drives you? What messed up (church related?) thing makes you angry? Get to solving that problem and doing your part!!
      - You will still be tired, but you will be satisfied too!
    - Vision Statement and the order. If you are stuck in parts 1, 2, or 3 or John 8:31-32 you will not be able to get off the bench and into the game.
  - Not a simple progression, you have to juggle these 5 balls to get there. But it can happen.
  - Let's go over **Matthew 11:28-30** again and believe to take hold of this promise!!
- Get personal prayer by emailing [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag).