

The Burden of the Soul

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Main Scriptures: Matthew 11: 28-30

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 3: 7-19; Romans 6: 23; John 3: 16; Luke 7: 36-48

Notes:

You are an active warrior in the kingdom of God and no weapon formed against you shall prosper. You are victorious! Tell yourself I am victorious!

My yoke is easy and my burden is light.

These are some of the most wonderful words that our master has uttered. He is speaking to people who are overwhelmed and have grown weary because of the burden they carry. What is the burden that you have that you are in need of this kind of a rest?

Why does he want to teach me and give me his yoke? If we understand, the farmers would normally put a yoke on the neck of the beast to control them but Jesus is telling them that there is a yoke on all of us that he wants to exchange. To take that burdensome yoke and give us an easy yoke. He wants to teach us ... you will find rest for your souls. He is talking about the burden of our souls.

Genesis 3 tells us of a significant occasion in humanity. God made man in his own image and man became a living soul. A significant occasion in the life of man happened in Genesis 3: 7. After the woman was seduced by the enemy to disobey the single command given not to eat of the fruit in the midst of the garden. Prior to this everything was good and there was a pure relationship between God and man. But now she looks and sees that the tree is good for food and she took the fruit and ate and gave it to her husband. Their eyes were now opened.

Prior to this they were naked and unashamed but now their eyes opened and they knew they were naked. They had the ability to perceive that they were naked and they sewed fig leaves and made themselves a covering. In the state that God made Adam and Eve, our finite minds struggled to comprehend, they had no knowledge, no impulse to steal or lie or kill, none of that was in the mind of them. There was no evil in their mind but the moment they disobeyed God their nature was now corrupted. Their nakedness was now a shame to them. Adam did not know before what it meant to be afraid, he was the one who called all the beast of the field and named them. He was having regular conversation with God and was never afraid. But now he is hiding because everything about him has changed.

Adam is blaming both God and the woman - dissolving all his responsibility. Before the eating of the fruit mankind did not know sorrow and pain. Sin allowed God to curse the ground from which man was made. Let us remember that God gave them the command to have dominion over the earth. Now we see the pain of death making its way into the life of humanity. Because Adam

disobeyed he would die spiritually and physically. We are just dust. It doesn't matter how much we think about ourselves or how powerful we are, we are heading back to the dust.

Romans 6: 23 - The wages of sin is death. The salary of sin is death.

John 3: 16 is the gift of God.

Now we have a simple understanding of what the burden of humanity is - it is the sin condition. The effects of sin are a yoke on humanity. No one is exempt from this condition. We are all born and shaped in iniquity. Everyone has a touch from Adam and Eve, a nature to sin. It's a burden to children, Fathers and Mothers and even those who have been given the power over sin when they get married their children are born in sin. Sin has tainted the universe.

Luke 7 tells us of a day in the life of Jesus (the gift of life to this world) who was invited to a pharisee's house. These Pharisees believed in the laws of Moses and they believed they had the authority to carry out the laws of Moses. This group of people came about between the ending of the book of Malichai and the beginning of the book of Matthew - during the Maccabean period. Simon invited Jesus to his house to eat and he has probably some pointed questions for the Lord. But while he was there was a woman in the city who was immoral and some believed she was a prostitute practicing sin. She made her way into Simon's house with a box of ointment. She was not invited but there is something about the presence of the Lord. She came weeping behind the Lord Jesus and began to wash his feet with tears. We have never seen anything like this before. She has not greeted Jesus but she came and began to cry. Something inside this woman brought her to tears and for her to kiss his feet. Consider how weird this action is. She is a sinner in the city and she is behind Jesus weeping and crying and the tears she is using to wash his feet. What did Jesus do? What did he mean to her? What was about to take place? Was it that voice of authority saying "Come to me all ye that are heavy laden...?" that she was obeying? Lets understand in those days travellers would wear sandals and there were no socks and fancy shoes. They would trod the ground that was dirty and so it was customary that when they enter a house their feet must be washed. Consider how dirty his feet were and she is washing his feet and wiping his feet. To her Jesus must be everything and the answer to the burden of her soul. There are folks living a lifestyle they have no pleasure in. They do it to survive to make ends meet. They have no pleasure in it. Sin produces a weariness in the mind and the body. After a while you find out that sin is not satisfying. She kissed his feet and anointed it with the perfume and she broke it open.

Simon invited the Lord but did not consider him a prophet. He knows within his heart what he believes but there is a woman who is convinced Jesus is more than a man. Jesus now answers the thoughts of Simon's heart.

The religious man did not do what was customary but this woman did it. While Jesus is talking she is still anointing and kissing the feet of Jesus. The greatest thing we can receive from the Lord is the forgiveness of sin. The sin condition, there is no answer to this world to sin outside of Jesus. Jesus is the answer to the burden of the soul and the frail mental condition which is caused by sins. Only Jesus has the power to forgive sin. Only he has the power to grant life. It cost him his life on the cross. A new life could be granted to us when he completed our redemption on the

Cross. There is an abundant life in the control of our Master and saviour Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter how we look today, in our garments (garments in the Hebrew means deceit) we are covered up but there is a burden in the soul. When you're all alone you are looking at the nakedness and you are ashamed. When you are looking over your life you are not pleased and there is a burden in the soul but because you know you have to go off to work you get dressed nicely and you come out and you look good but on the inside you know something is wrong. Your colleagues at work think highly of you but as the clock ticks you will have to get back to the room where it's you alone and you feel the burden of sin and you feel weary. If I could make a change in my life I would pay any kind of money to have it fixed. I wish I didn't make some decisions and we walk with a burden in our spirit. It is called the sin condition.

Simon did not prepare anything for Jesus but this woman was coming with worship. Everything she ever needed was found in Jesus. He's not trying to abuse her or profit from her. She made her way and saw where he was and began to break down in tears. As she cried she washed his feet. There has to be a change on my inside. She kissed his feet and wiped it with her hair. My achnage is in Jesus and my future is in Jesus and she broke the collongue in Simon's house but anointed Jesus' feet. Every act she displayed was an act of Love. Why do you find your life in circles? you need an encounter with Jesus. Some of us don't understand how much we are forgiven and so we love little.

Why are you here this morning? I am talking to someone who wants to be released from the sin condition in your life. You showed up to be delivered. The church of the living God has the ability to proclaim the good news of Jesus which grants forgiveness of sin. I am talking not to a sinner in the house but to those whose sins are forgiven. How are you expressing your love for Jesus? This woman was loving the lord with everything. What are you doing with the revelation that you have? Do you love little or much? Your actions will tell him whether you believe you have been forgiven little or much. The problem is too many christians who believe they were so bad. There are folks who believe there are classes of sinners. Their attitude tells us that Jesus did not have to do much to save them. BUT THE ONLY ANSWER TO SIN IS THE BLOOD OF JESUS. If its lying it needs the blood, if its murder it needs the blood. There is no class, every man is a sinner. We are all born in sin and shapen in iniquity and the greatest gift is when God forgives us of sins. When he died and darkness covered the earth, he died to set us free from sin so we can hear your sins are forgiven. Are you here to worship him and praise him this morning because you remember how wretched you were.

You don't have to live the lie you are living there is hope in the name of Jesus. Come and try him. It's just you and Jesus now, don't be distracted by Simon who is critical of you, it's just you and Jesus now. Perhaps you're like Simon - religious but not spiritual. He is here this morning. You can take that ointment you have and break it in the presence of the Lord. You can begin to shed your tears as you feel the presence of the Lord. When we consider how much he has forgiven us we will be broken in his presence. This is why people who are connected to the Lord can not be proud. People who become proud don't understand how corrupt they were and what the Lord has done for them. But this is my moment with the Lord Jesus. A moment to touch him. All other plans must be cancelled so we can see Jesus.