

## Receive Rest and Freedom from Jesus

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

Everyone of us wants and longing for rest in this life where everything becoming difficult. There are now more facilities that make life easier, but we know also the more these facilities are present the more life become complicated because the demands become more. The more appliances you have, the more maintenance you need, the more expenses and the more time you have to spend. **Here today where you are at this time of history and at this place of the world there is a demand for rest.** We may look to the right and to the left, and we hear the voice of Him, the Creature is saying, **“I will give you rest.”** **Everyone needs rest and that rest we find and we can receive only from Jesus.** Jesus will give us rest now for this life, where we can live life and life to the full on earth. And from Jesus we will have rest for our souls for the life to come. After death the souls that are wicked will go to hell where they will be tormented forever. **But Jesus had promised us rest for our souls, we who obey God and walk according to His Word and will.** Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who repented from the wrong ways of life and gives his life to Him. Jesus will come to take us with Him to Heaven where we will have rest and forever in His presence.

Do you want rest? If yes then persevere with me to listen to the end of the message.

To find this rest and according to **Matthew 11:28-30** Jesus commanded us to do the following three things:

**First, to find rest Jesus said, Come unto me:** You need to come to Jesus, fully to Him and surrender everything to Him (Your heart, life, body, future, present, etc). There is no other way to God but by Jesus as He promised in **John 14:6**, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** When He says **“Come unto me”**, it means there is a distance between you and Him, or there is still a space and He wants you to draw nearer to Him to close that space and be together with Him.

When we say Jesus we mean the living Word and the written Word of God, so to come to Jesus is to come and accept to live according to His Word.

**Second, to find rest Jesus said, Take my yoke upon you:** Be willing to be yoked with Jesus. Do you know what yoke is? Yoke is an instrument they use to bind two oxen together to plow the ground so they will walk together and in one direction; so no one can go faster or slower, or one will go ahead and the other lag behind. By the yoke no one will go to the right and the other to the left because they are yoked. Yoke in this context is restriction and limitation. Sometimes we think the yoke of Jesus is heavy and restrict us. But the yoke of Jesus is not suffering but have privileges. The yoke of Jesus is not heaviness but rest and peace; that is why He says, **“For my yoke is easy”**.

What are the privileges to be yoked with Jesus?

**A. Correct direction from the Lord:** To be yoked with Jesus and go along with His Word and obey them it might cause you little restriction, but you are sure that you are going into the right direction toward Heaven.

**B. Constant guidance from the Lord:** When you are yoked with Jesus and following His Word and His will then you are in constant guidance from the Lord, that every time you obey His command and go along the leading of the Holy Spirit then you are receiving guidance.

**C. Protection from errors and wrong decisions; therein lays the rest:** To be yoked with Jesus and in walking closely with Him according to His Word then that means you are in constant protection from errors and from wrong decisions. Those who are not yoked with Jesus you see them frequently exposed to errors and making lot of wrong decisions.

**D. The burden become light as long we are yoked with Him:** Jesus is carrying our burdens when we are yoked with Him. The Yoke of Jesus is true rest. Many they understand if they surrender fully to God they will have suffering but here Jesus is saying will give us rest. When you are alone and not yoked with Jesus you are carrying your burden alone, but when you are coming to Him and get yoked with Him then He will be carrying your burden and even He will carry you. To the contrary of that those who are far from Jesus and are not yoked with Him you find them always burdened and worried with lot of burdens and troubles.

So if we ask, why certain times we suffer? The answer is, because we are yoked with something else and not Jesus! The question here, what are the things that we are yoked with and not with Jesus and these are the causes of our troubles and sufferings?

**1. Pride:** Every human had a certain pride in his life and certain setup in his mind and he is yoked with that setup; he lives in his own world and atmosphere and he is yoked with that pride that will cause him trouble and prize that he needs to pay. Certain times we know very well we are wrong but our pride does not accept correction, therefore we will bear the consequences of what we do. **Therefore you need to humble down and renounce your pride and that will be the way for you to come to Jesus and to be yoked with Him and in such your suffering will be less.**

**2. Tradition:** \* There are things you use to do and become the tradition that you are accustomed yourself with. And with time the traditional things that you do become as habit and take the form of ritual things that you yoke yourself with and that will cause you suffering because you are no more yoked with Jesus. \* At the beginning, little deviation from the truth, even the angle is small, but with the passing of time the two ends of the angle would become so far, so you are unaware you become far away from Jesus, and so you suffer.

**3. Sins and bad habits:** Sins dictate certain ways of life and your yoke with that particular sin destroys the abundant life that Jesus promised to us. **You will find no rest until you repent of that particular sin and surrender everything to Jesus and be willing to be yoked with Him.**

**4. Friends:** Non-believers friends and bad companions that you are yoked with will take you into wrong direction and you will find yourself being pledged with dangerous ties and have taken wrong decisions.

**5. Relatives and cultural values:** Some are yoked with what their nations dictates, with what their national cultures dictates and not yoked with Jesus. They observe certain seasons, celebrations and certain detrimental habits that are routed from the culture but not from the Word of God. **You need to check yourself if you are yoked with such things and you are unaware of that so that you can free yourself to be set free so you can come back to Jesus.**

**6. Religion:** Certain people bound with their previous religions and previous traditional church and don't like to break that yoke and come fully to Jesus. **You might be bound with the same to your previous religion or previous traditional church and you are yoked with them and no more you are walking with Jesus.**

You may add to the list and may be the Holy Spirit will show you more things you yoked yourselves with. But you can pray and make your commitment and ask God to break whatever yoke that you are bound with and cause you suffering in order for you to get delivered and be set free.

**Third, to find rest Jesus said, learn from me:** We need to learn from Jesus the true ways of life so we will enjoy life and have rest. The ways that God offer from which we can learn are the following?

1. The Word of God (We need to be instructed by the Word).
2. The Holy Spirit (We need to be led by the Holy Spirit).
3. The people whom God anoint and ordained in the church to teach us, we need to learn from such people.
4. Our wrong decisions and failures teach us to repent and come back to the Lord

As we stated that certain times people suffer because they are yoked with something else. And when they are yoked with other things they will not be able to learn from Jesus. The people when they are yoked with other things they are in bondage and slave to what they are yoked with. **Christ set us free, therefore we need to be aware and not to put ourselves in bondage again, “I Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1 KJV)** Now let us go through the life of Abraham and will find out and learn what are the bondages that you might entangle with that you need to break the yoke of that bondage or slavery to be set free so you can come back and be yoked yourself again with Jesus, learn from Him and find rest.

**“I Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:” (Genesis 12:1 KJV)** **Your own country, culture, tradition, and the tradition of your father's house, your relatives, and your own people's religion and practices you might be keeping and putting yourselves in bondage with.** Abraham was willing to leave all that in order for him to follow God. He really obeyed God and left all that and followed the Lord. **You too in the same way need to leave all that in order for you to be able to follow God.**

**“5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. 6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled**

**then in the land. 8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.” (Genesis 13:5-9 KJV)** Abraham herdsmen and Lot herdsmen were quarrelling about material things and that affected the relationship of Abram with Lot. It was all about material things. Abram recognized that bondage and freed himself of it. **Many times you might be enticed with quarrels due to material things. You need to be aware that all material things are worldly and of no help for you. Let such bondage with material things move away and let not affect your yoke with Jesus.** After Lot left Abram, then this what the Lord said to Abram, **“14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. 16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.” (Genesis 13:14-17)** **Freeing yourselves from material bondages will bring God's real blessings and His inheritance to your descendants.**

**“1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. 3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. 4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.” (Genesis 16:1-4 KJV)** Why Abram here listened to what his wife told him to have Hagar as wife and put himself in bondage? It was not due to lust. But it was due to the lack of faith. Abram and Sarai as if doubted that God will give them child because they were old. That bondage was bondage of lack of faith and later on the bondage of adultery. **Many people they will not wait for God's right timing to marry and to have Godly family and Godly children. Lack of faith makes them accept the first temptation with a man or a woman as an opportunity of God and they will go for dating and friendship and will end up in adultery. God has a good plan for you to have a family but you need to have faith on Him and wait for Him till He come and bless you with a family.**

**“9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. 10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. 11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. 12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. 13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed. 14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.” (Genesis 21:9-14 KJV)** At this event Abraham was asked to send his second wife Hagar and her son Ishmael away to be freed from adultery. **“11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.”** That is here the bondage of emotion that was ruling in the life of Abraham. He knew his

relation with Hagar was adultery but he did not send her away because his emotion in link to his son Ishmael. Many are in same situation of Abraham who has second family, they know it is adultery and the emotions of their hearts hinder them from doing God's will. Many Christians are in control by their emotions and are in bondage and cannot do God's will because emotions ruling their hearts; they are controlled by love, jealousy, anger, bitterness, grudges and non forgiveness.

But Abraham finally overcame and freed himself. I pray that the message shall encourage you to do the same so you will be set free from the bondage of emotions. And when Abraham overcame his emotion he was able to obey God immediately as we read in *Genesis 22* when the Lord asked him to offer his only son Isaac to God.

*"1 Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. 2 And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. 3 And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim. 4 And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Ephher, and Hanoah, and Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah. 5 And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. 6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country."* (*Genesis 25:1-6 KJV*) After the death of Sarah, Abraham took another wife, Keturah. If you look at it, you can say, it is correct because his wife dead. That could be right. But how about Hagar was she dead as well? This we don't know. And we cannot judge about Abraham's decision to marry Keturah. But with what Abraham did when he sent all the children of Keturah away, then we can be sure that was not God's will for him to have Keturah as wife. Abraham knew that well it was not God's will for him to do that. But he did it because he was not aware of the consequences of it. But later on when he was able to see how they might affect Isaac and the good plan of God to him and his descendent he repented.

Many Christians and may be you are one of them, may do things, externally it look like in accordance to the Word of God. But internally they or you know very well it is against the will of God. This is the bondage of doing your own will that God today wants to set you free from it.

*My Dear and Beloved: "11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive."* (*Jeremiah 29:11-14 KJV*) Are you tired of your life? Are you struggling with many wrong decisions, and going wrongly with your own ways of understanding. Are you yoked and in bondage? If that is your situation and your life, Jesus is for you and He will help you and restore you. Jesus said, *"29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (*Matthew 11:29 KJV*) Throw away whatever yoke not of Jesus and come back to the Lord and take His yoke upon you and be willing to abide with Him and He will teach you how to have and receive rest from Him. Trust Him, and don't be afraid to come to Him. Be yoked with Him and be willing to learn from Him.

Let us pray ...

*My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for revealing your Word and your will to me. Thank you Jesus for calling me to come to you, thank you for your yoke and your willingness to teach me. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.*

*Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your greed, and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce your pride, non teachable spirit, overconfidence, stubbornness and your delay obedience. Confess and renounce your bondage with your old culture, tradition and your previous religion, emotions and doing your own will and plan. Confess and renounce your lack of faith and full trust in God. Confess and renounce your strife, non forgiveness, grudge, bitterness, fights, and quarrels. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers and your bondage with many friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I am coming to you and to your Word. I am willing to be yoked with you, leaving behind all my pride, sins, friends, traditions and all my wrong doings. Lord I am throwing away the following yokes and bondages \_\_\_\_\_. Lord receive me set me free from the following problems \_\_\_\_\_ and give me rest. I want to learn from you, teach me your ways and your truth, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins; who had come to you and are willing to be yoked with you and learn from you. We come against all the work of Satan in their lives and break their bondages in the name of Jesus to be set free. Lord guide them in their lives, lead them into your ways, set them free from their bondages and free them from their emotions and help them to take courageous decisions in order to leave behind all what contradict your Word, your will and your plan in their lives. Lord free them from their troubles and continue to watch over them and correct them whenever they deviate from your ways and the truth of your Word.*

*Lord, bless us as your church. Lord we commit ourselves to live in obedience to your Word that we received in this message. We commit ourselves to go along your Word, your will and your plan for each and every one of us. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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