

## ***Come to Me– 18/08/2019***

***“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”Mt.11:28-30***

Beloved in the Lord,

It is hard to walk when you are carrying a heavy weight. At the beginning of winter, I had to purchase a new oil heater. I knew that our local Bing Lee stocked the one I wanted, so I headed to the store. The store is on a main road and there is very limited parking available, so I decided to park in the local Council Carpark which is not too far away. I walked into the store and purchased the heater. The salesman asked if I wanted to pick it up from the loading dock, but I said that I would take it with me out the front. From past experience I knew that getting things from the loading dock was a bit of a palaver, so I opted to take it with me. He said “You know it’s heavy.” I smiled and said “that’s okay, I work out at the gym and I will be fine with it.” I walked out of the shop whistling, carrying my heater, but soon I was puffing, because with every metre I walked it seemed to be getting heavier and heavier. Not only that, suddenly the carpark seemed a long way away. I had a couple of short rests along the way and made it to my car.

It is interesting that something that seemed quite manageable at first, became quite heavy over time. That is only natural, because as the muscles tire, they are no longer capable of bearing the load. Keeping that thought in mind we turn to our text.

Jesus is telling us to give our burden to Him, no matter what it may be. He says: ***“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” Mt.11:28***

The burdens we carry in life are many and varied. Some of them are sin, worries, doubts, fears, bad memories, heartaches, un-forgiveness, jealousy, envy, insecurity, anger, and many others. So many people that I meet, are carrying many of these burdens, and they find life difficult, because these things are weighing them down.

Jesus invites us, prompts us, no even commands us to give it all to Him. He wants us to offload on Him and walk free. ***“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”*** Jesus promises to give us rest, to take the load, to help us. He is willing and able to do so, because He is God. There are many reasons we should off load it all on Him, but the main reason is because He tells us to.

David knew from experience that you cannot live with the burden of sin weighing on your heart. He wrote:

***“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
Whose sin is covered!***

***<sup>2</sup> How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity,  
And in whose spirit there is no deceit!***

***<sup>3</sup> When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away  
Through my groaning all day long.***

***<sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;***

***My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.***

***<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You,***

***And my iniquity I did not hide;***

***I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";***

***And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.***

***<sup>6</sup> Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found;***

***Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.***

***<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;***

***You surround me with songs of deliverance.***

***Ps.32:1-7***

This Psalm so beautifully describes the burden of sin, and shows us how to be free of it. David wrote that while he kept silent about his sin, while he hid it in his heart, he felt the weighty hand of God upon him. He felt his strength draining away, and he was becoming dry like a desert in the summer heat. A desert is an infertile place and not good for much at all. David is telling us, that while we harbour unconfessed sin in our lives, we are being dried out, and we become useless to God, because we have no vitality.

The moment we confess our sin and repent of it, the moment we call upon the Lord, everything changes.

***"I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";***

***And You forgave the guilt of my sin.***

We read in the New Testament in John's 1<sup>st</sup> letter:

***"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1.John 1:8-9***

The important word here is "If". This is the pivotal point in the text. If we keep our sin in our heart, if we say we haven't sinned, if we don't repent, then it stays in our heart and slowly kills us like a cancer. However, if we confess our sin, then God is faithful and righteous to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness through Jesus Christ. You see, not only does God forgive us of our sin, He also cleanses us from all unrighteousness. When the Blood of Jesus is applied to our sin, then not only is it forgiven, it is blotted out of God's Book. It is deleted of the Hard Drive to put it in modern terms. No-body can hold us guilty because we have been pardoned and the record is clean.

It does not matter how greatly we have sinned. The Blood of Jesus cleanses us. I also want to remind you of the saying that when God forgives our sins, He casts them into a lake, and puts up a "NO FISHING" sign. Paul wrote:

***"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." 2.Cor.5:17***

This is one of my favourite passages in the New Testament. In Christ all things are made new. What has been has been, it has passed away. Therefore let it go. Don't carry it around with you any longer. Don't let it weigh you down. What has been has been. In Christ all is

made new. In Christ you are set free and given a new life. There is only one direction to go and that is forwards.

Again Paul writes: ***“forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; Phil.3:13b-15a***

In order to progress, you need to forget that which is behind you. Don't carry it along with you. It will slow you down. Let it go. We read in Hebrews:

***“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

***<sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.***

***Hebrews 12:1-3***

Unfortunately there are those Christians who started off well, but along the way they grew weary, and fell away. In order not to grow weary, in order to finish the race, we need to remain focused on Jesus. We need to keep Him in our sights, not looking back, not looking around. If something is worrying us. If something is hurting us, if someone is hurting us, someone has wronged us, we need to forgive them and turn it all over to Jesus and we need to move on. Don't carry it with you. Like that oil heater I mentioned at the start – the longer you carry it, the heavier it gets. If you carry it too long and too far you will eventually falter and fall.

If along the way you do slip and fall, you do sin, get up, confess it, repent, give it to Jesus and move on. Believe me, the things that seem so important to us now, the things we carry along in our hearts now, will have no meaning when we reach our goal. That is why we should let them go. By rights, Paul could have been a bitter man, for all he suffered for his faith, but he wasn't, because he learned to give it to Jesus. He wrote these remarkable words:

***“ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” Romans 8:18***

Today, let us come to Jesus and let us surrender all to Him. Having been set free, let us run toward the goal, knowing that: ***“Those who wait for the Lord***

***Will gain new strength;***

***They will mount up with wings like eagles,***

***They will run and not get tired,***

***They will walk and not become weary.” Is.40:31.***

Amen

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