

**Devotional Thought
Month of October 2008**

THEME: His Burden is Light

Each of us have been called into ministry. We are given the charge to tell others of the way to the Father through faith in Jesus. Paul calls this the ministry of reconciliation: "**We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us,**" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

The specific roles of Clergy and Lay in this ministry may differ, but we must all be involved - we are all needed. But ministry (in any form) can be hard. There is more work to be done in the field than we can possibly accomplish, our "job" is never complete. This has the potential for great stress if we don't maintain a sense of our true purpose and a sense of **who** is really in charge.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus says: "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy and m burden is light.**" A yoke is a dual harness used to attach to oxen and plow the fields. Jesus said to take up His yoke and join Him in working the field. He's already pulling the load and wants us to attach ourselves to the other harness. As we do, we will discover a well-defined row in bad need of plowing - we will also find a load which is easy to bear.

But plowing can become tedious so we often begin to increase the pace. We look for ways to accomplish more and begin to see the many weeds scattered in other rows and other fields. In an attempt to pull as many weeds as possible we begin to wander from our row and our load becomes increasingly heavy. We soon find we have "**unhitched**" from His yoke.

More is not always better and faster is not always the desired result. It's interesting that Jesus said our main task as we take up His yoke is to "**learn from Him.**" It is as if walking by His side is really enough. The field will still get plowed, but in the process we will be blessed with a closer and deeper relationship with Him.

If our burden has become heavy, let's determine if we are properly "**hitched**" to His yoke and aligned to His row. A heavy burden requires some adjustments - maybe an adjustment in attitude, maybe an adjustment in priority. Let's ask our Heavenly Father for guidance and where to find rest for our soul. Let's take up His yoke and remember: His burden is light!

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