

The Burden Bearer

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Study given by W.D. Frazee—October 24, 1958

“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” Matthew 11:28-30.

These are the words of the Savior sounding down through the ages to us. In this text you will notice three things: The condition of those He invites—They are weary and heavy laden and burdened. The counsel He gives—“Come unto Me.” The blessed cure He provides—“Ye shall find rest unto your souls.” It is the heavy laden ones who are invited to come to Jesus. The Savior tells us they that are whole don’t need a physician. The words “heavy laden” Weymouth translates as burdened ones. A heavy load upon the shoulders, upon the back, and upon the heart. But Jesus says, “Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

“The heaviest burden that we bear is the burden of sin. If we were left to bear this burden, it would crush us. But the sinless One has taken our place” *Ministry of Healing*, page 71.

What does the Scripture say in Isaiah that God has done with that burden?

“The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” Isaiah 53:6.

It is a wonderful and mysterious thing that sin can be transferred. Unless it can be, we are sunk. We are like a vessel full of leaks and loaded with lead. But thank God, sin can be transferred. Sin can be taken from us and put upon Jesus. The heavy load can be lifted from our shoulders.

Obviously, if sin is taken from us and put upon Jesus, it must be because of a willing surrender on our part, for God will not forcibly remove sin from us. He will not catch us and hold us and tie us down and take the sin away. He says, “Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” Jesus takes the burden of sin. It is very important that this experience be ours.

“The feeling of guiltiness must be laid at the foot of the cross or it will poison the springs of life” *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 518.

How many there are who are trying to live the Christian life, yet carrying all the while the guilt of the past. Someone says, I have failed so many times. Surely God knows it. But remember that beautiful statement in *Steps to Christ*:

“If you give yourself to Him and accept Him as your Savior, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ’s character stands in the place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned.”

Isn’t that wonderful friends? As I was thinking of these beautiful promises, these assurances and invitations, my mind went back to that wonderful allegory Bunyan wrote in prison many years ago in Old England. The Christian life is set forth under the figure of a man who travels from the city of Destruction to the Celestial city. Along the way he went through various experiences. He started out against the entreaties and threats of his neighbors. He fell into the slue of Despond and made his way through that. He entered various experiences.

All the while a great burden of sin and guilt was on his back. He tried every way to get rid of that burden. In fact, he was fooled a time or two by people who claimed they knew how to get rid of the burden. But nothing got rid of it. He carried that burden of sin and guilt all the while as he toiled up the way. It is a heavy load and a weary walk with that burden.

I come now to the story that tells the great event when the load is lifted:

“I saw in my dream that the highway up which Christian was to go was fenced on either side with a wall that was called Salvation. Up this way therefore did burdened Christian run, but not without great difficulty because of the load on his back. He ran thus until he came to a place somewhat ascending, and upon that place stood a cross, and a little below, in the bottom, a sepulchre. I saw in my mind that just as Christian came up with the cross his burden loosed from off his shoulders and fell from off his back, and began to tumble, and so continued to do until it came to the mouth of the sepulchre, and it fell in and I saw it no more.

“Then was Christian glad and lightsome, and said with a merry heart, ‘He hath given me rest by His sorrow and life by His death.’ Then he stood still awhile to look and wonder, for it was very surprising to him that the sight of the cross should thus ease him of his burden. He looked therefore, and looked again, even till the springs that were in his head sent the waters down his cheeks.

“Now as he stood looking and weeping, behold Three Shining Ones came to him and saluted him with, ‘Peace be to thee.’ So the first said to him, ‘Thy sins be forgiven

thee.' The second stripped him of his rags and clothed him with a change of raiment. The third also set a mark on his forehead, and gave him a roll with a seal upon it which he bade him look on as he ran, and that he should give it in at the Celestial Gate. So they went their way. Then Christian gave three leaps for joy and went on singing,

Thus far did I come laden with my sin.
Nor could ought ease the grief that I was in
Till I came hither.
What a place is this!
Must here be the beginning of my bliss?
Must here the burden fall from off my back?
Must here the strings that bound it to me crack?
Blessed Cross, blessed Sepulchre,
Blessed rather be the Man
That there was put to shame for me."

The foot of the cross is the place where we lay the burden down. There is no other way. There is no tranquillizing pill that will take that burden away. There is no treatment that can take it away. There is no word from friend or brother that can take it away. There is only one place where that burden can be lifted, and it is at the foot of the cross. Jesus says, Come unto Me all you burdened ones. Come and I will give you rest. Rest from sin. Rest from that heavy burden.

Thank God, every bit of that guilt can be lifted from every soul. Oh friends, we can say in our heart, Lord Jesus, I give myself to Thee, sin and all. Take the sin away and do for me what You did for that man. Let the burden fall from off my back. Let me be free in Jesus Christ. Take Christ at His word and let your lips declare that He has fulfilled His promise, that He has taken the burden of guilt and sin from your heart.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you" 1
Peter 5:7.

He is doing the caring, and you may cast on Him the burden of care. What is another word for care as used here? Anxiety. And another? Worry.

That is the thing people are taking pills for today. If you are rich enough you can spend hundreds and thousands of dollars trying to get rid of fears and worries and complexes and neuroses and all the rest. But rich or poor the real answer, and the only true answer to every worry problem and fear problem, is in our text of the evening: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." That is the prescription for the healing of physical and mental and spiritual ills. Do you believe it? Does it work? Does God do it for you?

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." I want to emphasize that little word "all." It is amazing what big things we trust the Lord with, and what little things we sometimes keep to worry ourselves with. He loves you, and He is

controlling everything in the universe for your good. In our work for God we must learn this lesson.

We are warned against undue anxiety in seeking to carry out the Master's purpose:

“Because of unconsecrated workers, things will sometimes go wrong. You may weep over the result of the wrong course of others, but do not worry. The work is under the supervision of the blessed Master. All He asks is that the workers shall come to Him for their orders, and obey His directions. All parts of the work—our churches, missions, Sabbath schools, institutions—are carried upon His heart. Why worry? The intense longing to see the church imbued with life must be tempered with entire trust in God” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7, page 298.

Can you weep without worrying? That's what God wants us to learn. We have left the burden of sin with Him. Let us also leave the burden of care with Him. What do you say?

Jesus consents to bear our burdens only when we trust Him. He is saying Come unto Me all ye weary and heavy laden. Give Me your load. Trust Me to do the work that is impossible for the human agent to do.

What are your cares? Are they concerning your health? Do you have an ulcer in your stomach? A pain in your joints? A defective valve in your heart? Are your nerves frayed? Cast all your care and worry and anxiety about those conditions on Jesus.

If that happens will you instantly get well so you don't have anymore pain? Not necessarily. Pain may be accomplishing a ministry in your life. Sickness may be doing its work of discipline, preparing you for a special part in the closing work, or preparing you to meet your Master either through death or through translation. God has all that arranged. Even if our sickness is the result of our own transgressions, through the ministry of affliction we are being taught the great lesson of obedience.

Worry will not help us with any of those lessons. Worry frustrates the purpose of God in our affliction. Worry hinders carrying out the plan God has in mind. Let us lay all our cares about our physical condition, our mental condition, and our nervous condition at the feet of Jesus.

Is care a home problem? Is there a parent that has a child who is a burden because the child has not learned the lesson of obedience, and is breaking your heart and God's heart? As these words say, you may weep, but you must not worry. You must know that God loves that child better than you love him, and that God is doing everything an infinite God can do. Pray but don't worry. Trust. Let your faith lay hold of the mighty arm that holds the universe. Yes parents, trust as you pray.

Is it some other home problem? Is there a husband having some problem with his wife, or a wife having some problem with her husband? Maybe nobody knows about it. You have to lock that secret in your heart, and it seems sometimes the heart will burst with the problem. Are you weary? Are you heavy-hearted? Tell it to Jesus. It may be that instead of being in secret the problem is already spread abroad to your shame and sorrow. Whatever the problem in the home, Jesus has the answer. "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Is it a burden for souls that is pressing upon your heart? Is there some neighbor or friend for whom you have been working and praying? Perhaps some relative? Your heart goes out in longing and you feel you must have that person. You see the Devil working to interfere with the very thing you are seeking to accomplish and that you know God is seeking to accomplish. You may become desperate and earnest in prayer, but you must not worry. You must not doubt the power of God.

Remember that all your worry will never cause God to force that individual against his will. In your heart you wouldn't want it. All that God can do, all that Jesus can do, all that ten million angels can do is to please and seek to persuade and win. They cannot and will not force. And I repeat, your worries will not contribute one ounce.

Jesus asks you to give Him your load, to cast all your care upon Him. Oh, when we come to God in prayer and in faith, lay the burden for souls that God has laid upon us at the feet of Jesus, and share the load with Him that He has shared with us, what a fellowship in prayer over souls.

I cannot enumerate all the cares. There may be financial worries that are burdening some heart. There may be debts that have accumulated, perhaps through no fault of yours. They may have accumulated through poor management or through outright presumption. Whatever the reason, those debts are a heavy load. They ought to be. To dismiss them with a lightness as if they amounted to nothing would be very unrealistic and perhaps dishonest. Debt can be such a staggering load to a man that it actually saps his strength to earn the money to pay it.

What a wonderful thing that we can come to Jesus with our debts, and ask Him to take the load. Will Jesus take the load of debt? Yes He will. Jesus and I together can yoke up to get those debts paid. The debts will get paid a lot faster with Jesus and me together in the yoke than with me carrying the heavy load, waiting to come to God until I have taken care of it.

There is another kind of burden that some are carrying. God is very practical. In the *Testimonies* is a letter written to one of the most talented men this movement ever had, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg. For many years he was the medical superintendent of the great Battle Creek Sanitarium. Listen to these words of warning given to him a number of years before he finally faltered in carrying the torch of the third angel's message.

“The Lord gave you your work, not to be done in a rush, but in a calm, considerate manner. The Lord never compels hurried, complicated movements. But you have gathered to yourself responsibilities that the Lord, the merciful Father, does not place upon you. Duties He never ordained that you should perform chase one another wildly. . . .

“Not all the burdens you have been carrying have been laid upon you by the Lord. The result of your carrying these extra burdens is felt all through the field”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, page 189.

Someone says, “That is just the trouble. So many people ask me to do so many things.”

They do? That will probably continue. Who do you belong to? Whose servant are you? Who hired you? Who is paying you? I trust the answer to every one of those questions is Jesus Christ. And if you accept that, the word of Scripture is, “Ye are bought with a price; be not the servants of men.”

Do not allow yourself to be loaded merely because Tom, Dick, and Harry get ideas of how nice it would be if you would do this, or how wonderful it would be if you would do something else. If you do, you will have the experience this dear man had.

However, it isn't always others who are to blame for our having so many responsibilities and duties. I think if we study the life and experience of Dr. Kellogg we will find that it was his own fertile brain that conceived many of the ideas and schemes and plans that kept him running around so much.

The things he was doing were not gambling or horse racing. They weren't wicked things. They were good things. Those of you who are acquainted with his history know that they were humanitarian things. He was seeking to reach the great masses with a message and a ministry that he believed would help to solve the problems of multitudes.

In doing it he failed to take time to have consultations with the great Physician. He gathered to himself more than God ever intended. As the result he lost hold of the real burden, the great burden, the main burden God had laid upon him—and that was medical evangelism.

I trust you and I are in training to be medical missionaries. We would do well to listen to the counsel of the Great Medical Missionary. It is to us, my friends.

Some of the burdens we cast at His feet He never wants us to take up again. Perhaps the things we have just read will lead some of us into the closet of communion to make an inventory and a study of the things we are doing and the responsibilities we are carrying.

The secret place of prayer is a good place to do that. Alone with God, looking to Jesus upon the cross with the light from Calvary shining down upon us and upon all our plans and skills, we can do what we are invited to do. We can lay all our plans at His feet to be carried out or given up as His providence indicates.

“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved”
Psalms 55:22.

I come to still another burden. Remember our text says, “Take My yoke upon you.” He indicates that there are other yokes, and what galling yokes many are under. What yokes of oppression; what yokes of servitude.

We think of millions behind the Iron Curtain who are literally slaves. Think of what it must mean to get up and go to bed under the whip of dictatorship, never knowing when some bayonet is going to thrust you through, or some club crack your skull; never knowing when your food allowance is going to be cut still further until you starve to death.

Oh, what a yoke of oppression millions are serving under today.

But there is an oppression worse than anything of that kind. It is the oppression of sinful habit which has so long had us in its grasp that we fall again and again. I want to point to a wonderful promise in Isaiah. It has encouraged my heart as I have read it.

The book of Isaiah was written during the days when Assyria was coming into prominence as a threat to Israel and to Judea. Those Assyrian kings came down with their great forces.

I remember a poem I used to hear when I was a boy:

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming like purple and gold;
The sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea
When the blue waves roll nightly on deep Galilee.

That was Sennacherib’s advance against Jerusalem. Assyria was the great enemy of the people of God back there. Think of whatever has gotten you afraid, or whatever oppression of Satan, whether through human beings or some habit that has gripped your life as the Assyrian.

See what God promises about his burden and his yoke which has been laid upon you:

“Therefore thus saith the Lord God of hosts, O My people that dwells in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while and the indignation shall cease, and Mine anger in their

destruction. And the Lord of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as His rod was upon the sea, so shall He lift it up after the manner of Egypt” Isaiah 10:24-26.

In other words, God is going to deliver us from the Assyrian just as He delivered the children of Israel from Egypt and from the Midianites.

“And it shall come to pass that in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing” Isaiah 10:27.

It is the blessed anointing of the Spirit, my friends. Isn’t that a wonderful promise?

Is there anybody under a yoke of evil habit? It may be whiskey, of tobacco, or some other drug poison. It may be some other habit that has gripped your life and holds it as in a vise. God wants to break the yoke of the Assyrian. God wants to take that burden from off your shoulders.

Notice this wonderful promise:

“Secret sin or master passion may hold him a captive..... yet his condition is not hopeless. God does not control our minds without our consent; but every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him. None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they may find deliverance in Christ” *Ministry of Healing*, page 93.

Not only is the load of the guilt of the past to drop from our weary shoulders, but the load of the power of present habit that grips us with its strength is to be lifted. That burden is to be taken away. We are to stand forth as free men in Christ, delivered through the power of Jesus. Isn’t that a wonderful promise?

“His heart of divine love and sympathy is drawn out most of all for the one who is the most hopelessly entangled in the snares of the enemy” *Ibid*, page 90.

Sometimes the sins and habits and problems that burden us most are things that most people don’t know anything about. Jesus is ready to take that burden. He is ready to lift that load. He is ready to break that yoke.

Here is another wonderful assurance:

“Whatever may be the evil practice, the master passion which through long indulgence binds both soul and body, Christ is able and longs to deliver. He will impart life to the soul that is ‘dead in trespasses.’ He will set free the

captive that is held by weakness and misfortune and the chains of sin" *Ibid*, page 85.

What do you say we accept the victory and the liberty?

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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."

This is not an experience that comes once in a lifetime and need never to be repeated. Oh, no. This is like drinking at the living spring. We thirst for none other, and we come again and again.

Whatever the burden upon our hearts, let us accept literally the invitation of Jesus. If there is guilt of sin upon our hearts, let us lay it at the foot of the cross. If there are cares or worries that are weighing us down, whatever may be their nature, cast all your care upon Him for he cares for you.

If there is some oppression that has gripped your life in a vice so that even though you have confessed it to Jesus again and again and been forgiven, and it makes you fearful that you will fall again, take these wonderful promises.

Let us believe that He will break the yoke of the Assyrian and take the load from off our shoulders. Thanks be unto God which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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