

The Burden Bearer

#0644

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

These are the words of Jesus come sounding down the ages to us tonight, from Matthew 11:28–30.

“O heart bowed down with sorrow!
O eyes that long for sight!
There’s gladness in believing,
In Jesus there is light.

[Refrain] ‘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.’

His peace is like a river,
His love is like a song;
His yoke’s a burden never;
‘tis easy all day long.
[Refrain].”

Christ in Song, #16, first and fourth stanzas.

“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.

In this text, you will note three things: the condition of those He invites, the condition they’re in, “weary and heavy laden,” “burdened.” You notice the counsel He gives, “Come unto Me.” And you note the blessed cure He provides, the sweet conclusion, “Ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

Let’s study it a little tonight. You notice that it is the heavy-laden ones that are invited to come to Jesus. The Savior says:

“...They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick” Matthew 9:12.

“Weary” and “heavy laden,” that “heavy laden,” Weymouth translates it “burdened ones,” a heavy load upon the shoulders, upon the back, and upon the heart.

But Jesus says:

“Come unto Me... and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28.

In *Ministry of Healing*, page 71, I read:

“The heaviest burden that we bear is the burden of sin”
Ministry of Healing, page 71.

What’s the heaviest burden? I suppose we’d all agree to that.

“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” *Ibid*.

What does the Scripture say in Isaiah 53:6 that God has done with that burden?

“...The LORD hath laid on Him...” Isaiah 53:6.

What?

“...the iniquity of us all” Isaiah 53:6.

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

It’s a wonderful and mysterious thing that sin can be transferred, but unless it can, we’re sunk, friends, aren’t we? Yes. We’re 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 weary 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’ll not catch us and hold us and tie us down and take the sin away.

And so, He says, “Come”:

“Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden,
and I will...” Matthew 11:28.

Do what?

“...I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28.

Jesus takes the burden of sin. It’s very important that this experience be ours.

In *Testimonies to Ministers* 518, we read:

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

How many there are that are trying to live the Christian life, yet carrying all the while the burden of the guilt of the past.

“Ah, but,” one says, “I’ve failed so many times.”

Surely, yes, God knows it. But you remember that beautiful statement that was quoted a few moments ago from *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 place of your character, and *you* are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned” *Steps to Christ*, page 62.

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 that Bunyan wrote in prison many, many years ago over there in old England. I thought I’d just read to you a few lines from it tonight.

You remember that the Christian life here is set forth under the figure of the travels of a man from the city of Destruction to the Celestial City. And along the way, he goes through various experiences.

You remember that he starts out against the entreaties and threats and all that of his neighbors. Presently, he falls into the slough of Despond and makes his way through that. And finally comes up to the gate, and enters the gate; goes through various experiences.

But all the while, what’s on his back? The great burden, the great burden of sin and guilt, and he tries every way to get rid of that burden. In fact, he’s fooled a time or two by people who claim that they know how to get rid of the burden. But nothing gets rid of it. He’s carrying that burden of sin and guilt all the while as he toils up the way. And it’s a heavy load and a weary walk with that burden.

And now, I come to the little story that tells the great event when the load is lifted. And notice how it happens:

“Now I saw in my dream, that the highway up which Christian was to go, was fenced on either side with a wall, and that wall was called Salvation. Up this way, therefore, did burdened Christian run, but not without great difficulty, because of the load on his back” *Pilgrim’s Progress*, page 92.

Now, what made the traveling difficult? This load on his back.

“He ran thus till he came at a place somewhat ascending, and upon that place stood a cross, and a little below, in the bottom, a sepulchre. So I saw in my dream, 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, till it came to the mouth of the sepulchre, where 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 unto thee.’ So the first said to him, ‘thy sins be forgiven thee;’ the second stripped him of his rags, and clothed him with 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 I did come laden with my sin;
Nor could aught 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?
Blest cross! blest sepulchre! blest rather be
The Man that there was put to shame for me!’”

Ibid., pages 92–95.

That’s the place, my friends, where we lay the burden down is at the foot of the cross. And there’s no other way. There’s no tranquilizing pill that will take that burden away. There’s no treatment that can take it away. There is no word from friend or brother that can take that load away. There’s only one place that that burden can be lifted, and that’s at the foot of the cross.

And so, Jesus says, “Come unto Me all you burdened ones. Come and I will give you rest—rest from sin, rest from that heavy burden” [a paraphrase of Matthew 11:28].

Thank God, friend, every bit of that guilt can be lifted tonight from every soul. Am I right?

Oh, just now we can say in our hearts, “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 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.

Now, let’s turn over to 1 Peter 5:7, and we’ll find another burden that the heavy laden carry. And oh friends, this is a heavy burden, too. What is this burden? What is it? Care.

“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”
1 Peter 5:7.

He’s doing the caring, so you may cast on Him the burden of care. What’s another word for “care” as used here? Anxiety. What’s another one? Worry, oh, yes, that’s it. That’s another thing people are taking pills for today, isn’t it? They’re doing all kinds of things.

If you’re 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, can’t you if you’re really rich. Well, let me tell you this, friends. 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” Matthew 11:28.

That’s the prescription for the healing of physical, mental and spiritual ills. Is that right? Do you believe it? Does it work? Does God do it for you? Is He doing it?

Ah, friends, thank God.

“Casting *all* your care upon Him...” 1 Peter 5:7.

I want to emphasize that little word “all” tonight. You know, it’s amazing what big things we trust the Lord with and what little ones we sometimes keep worrying ourselves with.

“Casting *all* your care upon Him; for He careth for you”
1 Peter 5:7.

He’s thinking about you, He loves you, and He’s controlling everything in the universe for your good. In our work for God, we must learn this lesson.

In *Volume 7*, page 298, we’re warned against undue anxiety, the wrong kind of anxiety, even 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” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*, page 298.

Can you weep without worrying? That’s what God wants us to learn.

“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” *Ibid.*

Ah, friends, we’ve left the burden of sin. 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 it is impossible for the human agent to do’” *Ibid.*

What are your cares, friends? Are they concerning your health? Got an ulcer in your stomach, or a pain in your joints, or a defective valve in your heart? Are your nerves frayed? What’s the problem?

Ah, friends, cast all your care, worry, anxiety about those conditions on Whom? On Jesus.

“Ah,” you say, “if that happens, will I instantly get well so I don’t have any more 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 that all arranged. Even if our sickness is, as it often is, the result of our own transgressions, still through the ministry of afflictions, we’re being taught the great lesson of obedience.

But ah, my friends, worry will not help us with any of those lessons. Worry frustrates the purpose of God in our affliction. Worry hinders the carrying out of the plan that God has in mind. Let us lay all our cares about our physical conditions, our mental and nervous problems at the feet of Jesus. What do you say, friends?

“Casting *all* your care upon Him, for He careth for you”
1 Peter 5:7.

Is the care a home problem? Is there a parent here that has a child that is a burden on your heart because that child has not learned the lesson of obedience and is breaking your heart and God's heart?

Ah friends, 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 that an infinite God can do. Pray but don't worry; trust. Let your faith lay hold of that arm of God, that mighty arm that holds the universe. Yes, parents, trust, full trust as you pray.

Is it some other home problem? Is there a husband here having some problem with the wife or the wife with the husband? Maybe nobody else knows about it, and you have to lock that secret in your heart. And it sometimes seems that the heart would burst with the problem.

"Are you weary? Are you heavy hearted?
Tell it to Jesus..."

Christ in Song, #515, first stanza (partial).

It may be that instead of it being in secret the problem is already spread abroad, to your shame and sorrow. But ah, my friends:

"Casting *all* your care upon Him, for He careth for you"
1 Peter 5:7.

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" Matthew 11:28.

Is it a burden for souls that is pressing upon your heart? Is there some neighbor, some friend for whom you've been working and praying, perhaps some relative? And 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're seeking to accomplish, and you know God is seeking to accomplish. You may become desperately in earnest in prayer, but oh my friends, you must not worry. You must not doubt the power of God.

And remember that all your worry will never cause God to force that individual against his will. And in your heart of hearts, you wouldn't want it, would you? No. All that God can do, all that Jesus can do, all that ten million angels can do is to plead and work and seek to persuade and win. They cannot; they will not force. And I repeat, your worries will not contribute one ounce, one ounce.

"Give Me your load," Jesus says.

"Casting all your care upon Him..." 1 Peter 5:7.

Oh, when we come to God in prayer, and in faith lay the burden for souls that God has laid upon us, lay it at the feet of Jesus and share the load with Him which

He has shared with us, what a fellowship, what a fellowship, a fellowship in prayer over souls.

Oh, I cannot enumerate all the cares tonight, friends. There may be financial worries that are burdening some heart. There may be debts that have accumulated, perhaps through no fault of yours, perhaps through poor management, perhaps through outright presumption. Whatever the reason, friends, those debts are a heavy load. They *ought* to be. Certainly, to dismiss them with a lightness as if they amounted to nothing would be very unrealistic, perhaps dishonest.

But oh, friends, debt can be such a staggering load to a man that it actually saps his strength to earn money to pay the debts. Has it ever happened? More than once.

What a wonderful thing that we can come to Jesus with our debts, our debts, and we can ask Jesus to take the load.

You say, "Will Jesus take the load of debt?"

Yes, He will. Yes, He will. And Jesus and I together can yoke up to get those debts paid. Is that right? And He says:

"...My yoke is easy, and my burden is light" Matthew 11:30.

Oh, friends, 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 with the load until I've taken care of it.

"Casting *all* your care upon Him, for He careth for you"
1 Peter 5:7.

There's another kind of burden that some are carrying, perhaps. You know, God is very practical. In *Volume 8*, page 189, I read a letter written to one of the most talented men that this movement ever had, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, for many years 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" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1*, page 189.

I trust that some dear soul that's only half loaded won't listen too hard to what I'm reading now. But ah, friends, it's the weary and heavy-laden Jesus is speaking to in these words.

I read on:

“...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 that 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” *Ibid*.

“Ah but,” somebody says, “that’s just the trouble. So many people ask me to do so many things.”

Oh, do they? Yes. Probably that will continue. But ah, my friends, 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 to each one of you, if you accept that, the Word of Scripture is:

“Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men”
1 Corinthians 7:23.

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

“Duties He never ordained that you should perform chase one another wildly” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1*, page 189.

However, friends, it isn’t always others that are to blame for our having so many responsibilities and duties. I think if we study the life and experience of *this* man, we 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.

And so with us, and remember, these things that 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.

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

You and I are in training to be medical missionaries, I trust. We’d do well to listen to the counsel of the great Medical Missionary to this medical missionary. It is to us, my friends.

“Cast thy burden upon the LORD...” Psalm 55:22.

And some of the burdens that He bids us cast at His feet He never wants us to take up again, my friends.

Perhaps the things we have just read will lead some of us into the closet of communion to make an inventory, a study of the things that we’re doing, the responsibilities that we’re carrying. In the secret place of prayer is a good place to do that.

Alone with God, looking up at Jesus upon the cross, with the light from Calvary shining down upon us, and upon all our plans and schemes, we can do what we’re invited to do in *Steps to Christ*. What does it say? Lay all your plans at His feet, to be what? Carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate [a paraphrase from *Steps to Christ*, page 70].

Psalm 55:22:

“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee...” Psalm 55:22.

Now, I come to still another burden. You remember our text says:

“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. Take *My* yoke upon you...”
Matthew 11:28.

He indicates that there are other yokes, and oh what galling yokes many are under. What yokes of oppression, yokes of servitude.

We think of millions behind the Iron Curtain who are literally enslaved. Think of what it must mean, my friends, to get up and go to bed always 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 ah, friends, 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 read a wonderful promise here in Isaiah the 10th chapter, verses 24–28. It has encouraged my heart as I’ve read it.

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

I remember the 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 in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue waves roll nightly on deep Galilee.”
“The Destruction of Sennacherib” by Lord Byron.

Yes, that was Sennacherib’s advance against Jerusalem. Assyria was the great enemy of the people of God back there.

Well now, notice this wonderful promise of God in Isaiah 10:24–28, and as we read it, I want you to think of whatever has gotten you afraid, whatever oppression of Satan, either through human beings or through some habit that has gripped your life. I want you to think of it. That’s 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 dwellest 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...” Isaiah 10:24–26.

That’s Gideon’s experiences.

“...and as His rod was upon the sea, so shall He lift it up after the manner of Egypt” Isaiah 10:26.

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

Now, watch:

“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.

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

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

Notice these wonderful promises here as I read them in *Ministry of Healing*, page 93:

“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.

Oh, friends, not only is the load of the guilt of the past to drop from our weary shoulders, this load of the power of present habits to grip us with its strength so that we feel that we can't get away, that we're defeated again and again. That yoke is to be broken. That load is to be lifted. That burden is to be taken away. We're to stand forth free men in Christ, delivered through the power of Jesus. Isn't that a wonderful promise?

Again, page 90, this same wonderful book, *Ministry of Healing*:

“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.

Isn't that wonderful, friends? Ah, sometimes some of the sins and habits and problems that burden us most are the things that other people don't know anything about. Let me say to you, friends, Jesus is ready to take that burden. He's ready to lift that load. He's ready to break that yoke.

Page 84, another wonderful assurance here:

“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 84.

Isn't that wonderful, friends? What do you say that we accept the victory and the liberty tonight?

“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” Matthew 11:28–29.

I thank the Lord for His mercy and grace. And may I tell you, this is not an experience that comes once in a lifetime and needs never to be repeated. Oh, no. This is like drinking at the living spring. We thirst for none other, but we come again and again.

And so tonight, whatever the burden upon our hearts, let us accept the invitation of Jesus literally. If there is guilt of sin upon our hearts, let us lay it at the foot of the cross tonight. If there are cares and worries that are weighing us down, whatever may be their nature, cast all your care upon Him for He careth for you [a paraphrase of 1 Peter 5:7].

And if there is some oppression, some yoke of evil habit that has gripped your life in a vise, so that even though you've confessed it to Jesus again and again and have been forgiven, yet it stands as a specter; oh, it makes you fearful for fear that you will fall again, take these wonderful promises we've read tonight. Let us believe that He will break the yoke of the Assyrian and take the load off our shoulders. What do you say, friends?

“...Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:57.

You know, a few years ago, before my dear brother here with me on the platform went over to Korea, he and I sang a little song that comes down through many, many years. It's in old *Hymns and Tunes*, and I haven't asked him about it, but I think he'd be willing to sing it with me now.

Listen to these words. I just love those:

“Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore,
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.
He is able, He is able, He is willing, doubt no more.
He is able, He is able, He is willing, doubt no more.”
Christ in Song, #178, first stanza.

There may be somebody here tonight that wants to come and lay a burden down at the feet of Jesus. If there is, forget about everybody else and everything else. Make your way to God's altar, and just kneel down and talk to Jesus and lay that burden down. If it's the burden of guilt, accept His righteousness. If it's the burden of care and worry, cast all your care upon Him.

[Recording ended in progress]

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