

Luke 10:39 “She had a sister named Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.”

“NEWSLETTER: “MOMENTS WITH MARY”

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“THE LORD’S BURDEN”

Matthew 11:28-30 NLT “Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light.”

If you take a walk through the Gospels and look at the experiences Jesus had, and look at them from the human viewpoint, the above Scripture may seem a little strange or hard to understand! He had weariness at times, and was often misunderstood. He was sometimes openly opposed in public and endured hard questioning. As you examine the lack of the disciples’ ability to really comprehend what was going on or what He said, even those close to Him must have disappointed Jesus at times, yet *He remained patient and faithful!*

Jesus made many very strong statements about who He was and why He came, yet His self description says “I am humble and gentle” “My burden is light”. “My yoke fits” Humble? What did He mean? Doesn’t that sound a little like pride? Many people do not fully understand this word. Do I? Do you? While we often equate the word with being abased or down cast or a negative image, it is not the meaning given in some portions of Scripture. *The Greek Dictionary describes lowly or humble in a good sense!*

To be humble, meek, and/or lowly is to exercise the Fruit of power. It is to have self control. It is to be in tune with God and His Word and willingly obedient to His instructions. It is not supposed to be in operation only when all things are going as we would like them to. It is not arrogant or cocky, but the quiet confidence and knowledge to speak the truth in a gentle and loving way. It is to be kind and courteous to others. Jesus said that we are to be like Him! When we quiet our spirit and come to ask His help, He is pleased to bring us rest as we lean on Him. *Asking Him, is to honor Him and His help!*

A burden is not something people desire, but it is something all people experience. How do we handle ours? Our heavy burden often wears us out and seems to just get heavier and we become overwhelmed! Jesus said to take His yoke upon us as it fits perfectly! *A yoke? You have to be kidding!* That is what a beast of burden carries on his back! *But wait!* If it is His yoke, and we are connected Him, then He certainly will make the load seem a lot lighter!

A yoke indicates there is work to be done. Have we had a spiritual check up lately? It is easy to let another thing pile up before we have addressed, tended to, or resolved the first concern we have! When too many problems or concerns hit us at once, we need to take a rest, and let the *LORD* help us sort it out! Some things need to be tossed out!

There is no profit in carrying a burden you cannot do anything about. Sometimes I have *“been there, done that” as the saying goes today!* Some things we really do just have to let go of and give that burden over to Jesus and *focus on what we can do with His help!*

Many Believers observe this time of year as Lent. A reflection on the forty days of Christ and the temptations He faced. In each, He won the battle through the Word. “It is written!” When we try to argue with the Tempter, we will lose. As we take the example of Jesus, and walk in His way, we will win! When we humble ourselves before the *LORD*, and deny some pleasure of the flesh in deference to Him, we may begin to understand His sacrifices for us a little better.

His sufferings were for our sake. Do not make light of them! He said since He suffered, His followers would also suffer! We sometimes complain about how much we do, or let others know how we have sacrificed for someone in not so humble a fashion! If we are overly concerned about how everything effects “little old poor me!”, I believe we are dishonoring our *LORD*! Have I ever done that? Yes, to my shame! I must repent and ask the *LORD* to forgive me!

Whether you observe the Lenten Season faithfully or not, each of us needs to take a time to examine our lives in respect to humbly walking in willing obedience before our *LORD*! We can do that because His Resurrection power abides within and His Holy Spirit enables us!

1 Peter 3:8-9 NLT “Finally, all of you should be of one mind, full of sympathy toward one another, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds. {That is a positive statement about being humble! mm }

v.9 “Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and He will bless you for it.”

1 Peter 3:13-14 “Now, who would want to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you suffer for doing what’s right, God will reward you for it. So don’t be afraid and don’t worry.”

1 Peter 3:18 NLT “Christ also suffered when He died for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but He died for sinners that He might bring us safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but **He was raised to life in the Spirit.**”

1 Peter 4:19 NLT “So if you are suffering according to God’s will, keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for **He will never fail you.**”

Praise the LORD as we celebrate His Resurrection! He is risen! Let us walk in His Spirit and His power daily!

In His Service, Mary Mayko

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