

Are You Wearing Jesus' Yoke, and Doing His Work?

➤ = next PowerPoint Slide

Intro:

- **Jesus illustrates our relationship to Him as putting on His yoke (Matt. 11:25-30)**
- **What can we learn from this metaphor, and our relationship with Jesus?**

➤ Explanation of the metaphor

- **yoke**: a devise for **joining a pair of animals** for work
 - **video**: **man farming with oxen in Jammu, India**
 - **oxen yoked** – have no choice, do what the owner compels them to do
 - **owner uses whip** to get them to obey
- - **yoke**: a harness used to attach an animal to an implement such as a plow or wagon
 - **pic**: **horse harnessed to wagon**
 - **single animal yoked to implement in order to work**
- - **yoke**: an implement extending over a person's shoulders (one or both, neck) used to carry a load on both ends
 - **pic**: **woman with yoke carrying buckets**
 - **our yoke with Jesus as our shepherd**, rather than a driver of cattle
 - **voluntarily put it on**
 - **voluntarily do the work**
 - **Jesus leads and we follow**
 - **when we put on Jesus' yoke, we do it voluntarily, to do His work, in His kingdom**
- **Spiritual fact: everyone is wearing a yoke**
 - **Matt. 11:29a** as Christians, we wear **Jesus' yoke**
- - **Gal. 5:1** if we depart from Christ we have a yoke of slavery
 - cf. Christ's yoke is a yoke of freedom, spiritual freedom
- - **Rom. 6:3, 6-7, 16-19, 22a** everyone is a slave to **unrighteousness (Satan) or God**
 - **1 Tim. 6:1** "yoke" is used of one in slavery – "All who are under the yoke as slaves. . . ."
 - **we decide which yoke to wear, and put it on voluntarily** – yoke sin / yoke righteousness
- **everyone is wearing a yoke**
 - **we choose** whose yoke to wear – God's, Satan's
 - **we can change** at anything while living on earth
 - **whose yoke are you wearing**

➤ **Process** – 4 steps

- **Matt. 11:28a go to Jesus**

- **2 Th. 2:14** Jesus calls us through the gospel

- **Rev. 22:17** the Spirit and bride invite everyone to come, take the water of life without cost

- **Acts 2:47** He adds those who respond to His church

- **church:** “ekklesia” called out body, from the world of sin

- **Matt. 7:21-23** not stop there, many go to Jesus and call Him Lord, but are lost

- **illus.: song #268, Hark, The Gentle Voice** - review vs. 1 and chorus (hark)

➤ - **Matt. 11:29a take, put on Jesus’ yoke**

- **obey the gospel** – become a Christian, disciple of Christ (**Rom. 6**)

- **Matt. 28:18-19 become disciple (Christian) when baptized** – that’s when put on yoke

- **illus.: song #268, Hark, The Gentle Voice** - review vs. 2a (take His yoke)

➤ - **Matt. 11:29b learn from Jesus, what to do with His yoke on**

- **learn from Jesus through His word** – He is the teacher, we are His disciples

- **Eph. 4:20** we must learn Christ

- **Eph. 5:10** we must learn what is pleasing to the Lord

- **illus.: train horses and oxen** what to do, how to do the work with the yoke on

- **illus.: song #268, Hark, The Gentle Voice** - review vs. 2b (He will teach, you will learn)

➤ - **Matt. 11:30 bear the burden, do the work, as you learn from Jesus** - do Jesus’ work

- **each person decides how much work (burden) to do**

- **Ja. 1:22** Christians are doers of the word, not merely hearers

- **illus.: song #268, Hark, The Gentle Voice** - review vs. 3 and chorus (voice obeying, bear His yoke, burden take)

- **process: go to Jesus, put on His yoke, learn, do the work**

➤ **Applications from the metaphor:**

- **we never take off the yoke** – if we do, we fall away
 - **Rev. 17:14** we are the called and chosen and faithful – faithful = never take off yoke, not fail to work
 - **Col. 3:17** do all in the name of the Lord – not take off yoke – if we do, fall away

- - **we are yoked together as Christians, to do the Lord's work together**
- - **video: horses harnessed to wagon**
 - if one horse does nothing, all work stops
 - each has a job, and must do it to successfully pull the wagon
- - **Rom. 12:4-6a** members of one body, not have same function, we're one body in Christ, each exercise gifts (not miraculous today, talents)
 - **Eph. 4:16** each Christian has work to do, equally important, result is growth of the body
 - **2 Cor. 6:14** not to be bound together (equally yoked) with unbelievers

- - **Jesus' yoke is the easiest and gentlest yoke we can put on**
 - review: everyone is wearing a yoke (Satan and sin, Jesus and righteousness)
 - **Matt. 11:28-30** rest, gentle, humble, rest for your souls, yoke is easy, burden is light
 - **Jesus helps us** – metaphorically yoked together with Him as our heavenly Brother, and yet as our Lord
 - **Jesus served us by taking our sins** in His body upon the cross (**Rom. 15:3**)
 - **Jesus is teaching us**
 - **Jesus is helping us** do the work
 - **Jesus is leading us** as our Shepherd, going before us as our forerunner
 - **Jesus is our compassionate high priests, Advocate, and Mediator**, seated at God's right hand
 - **contrast:** false teachers, captivity, enslave, take advantage of them (**Gal. 5:1; 2 Pet. 2:3, 19-22**)

- - **we're responsible (accountable) for doing the work we're capable of doing** – judgment
 - **Matt. 25** parable of 10 virgins, parable of talents, judgment

Summary / Inv.

- everyone is wearing a yoke
- whose yoke are you wearing – Satan's, Jesus'
- what do your deeds say about your yoke – whose is it, are you really working or just lukewarm
- **inv.:** you can put on a different yoke at anytime
 - take off Satan's and put on Jesus'
 - keep Jesus' yoke on for life