

Take My Yoke.

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Take my yoke upon you
My yoke is easy
My burden is light
Learn of me
And Know my ways
And I will give you rest

Unless a corn of wheat
Fall into the ground
And dies,
It abides alone (repeat)

This song was taken from Matt 11:28 and John 12:24. The context in which the Lord Jesus Christ made the statement in Matthew was clear. John the Baptist sent some of his disciples to enquire if Jesus was the expected messiah or another should be expected. This is ironic, in that it was the same John that baptized Jesus at river Jordan as the bible declares:

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. John 1:29-34.

What we can learn from this then, is that John, like every other Jew of his day, expected the messiah to be a warrior, who will fight with sword and spears to deliver Israel physically from the bondage to which it was subjected by the Romans, their political cum spiritual leaders. I believe that John expected Jesus to intervene in his case. Doubt entered into him, when such intervention was not forthcoming! We also are of like passions. We deny our faith and profession when things do not seem to be going our way!

Jesus replied John and up-raided the people who have seen his work and yet demonstrate unbelief. They did not take advantage of his presence, his work and the freedom from bondage they yearned for. Why? Because, that is not the way they expected it. So he said, come unto me all who have been subjected to bondage because of the wrong beliefs, attitudes and expectation, which resulted from wrong teaching from their leaders.

The messiah brings spiritual deliverance, which uproots the very essence of physical bondage. The religious leader had enlarged the ten commandments to 613 laws, which each man was to keep, in addition to the human rules and regulation by the Romans. They were indeed laboured

and heavily laddened. The master preached repentance from old ways for the kingdom of God is at hand. The Kingdom of God is the domain, a territory, a location, in which the king (God) has dominion and authority. In other words, God would now be the principal focus in us and every other thing will fall into place. In other words, we lose our identities for God's identity and glory:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33 Halleluyah.

But the lord is saying that the way up to that Glory, is down, through complete submission to the Lord. So in John 12:24, he being the example, declared that unless a corn of wheat fall into the ground and dies, it abides alone. The corn in this context represent you and I. Unless you die to the self life, for the kingdom of God, prosperity eludes us. But when we die to the self and be alive to God, we have all. The power of God is manifested in us at various levels – 100 (complete union with him), 60 (maturity completed) and 30 (overcome trials in self life) folds.

The search of men for him is a revelation of his complete death to the self and obedience to the will of the father. He said, I can of my own self do nothing

John 8:28

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

John 5:19

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

John 5:30

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

When the father is the one at work in us, then it is done. Praise the name of the Lord. Let God have his way in us, amen.