

Gospel of Matthew

11:25-30

The Burden





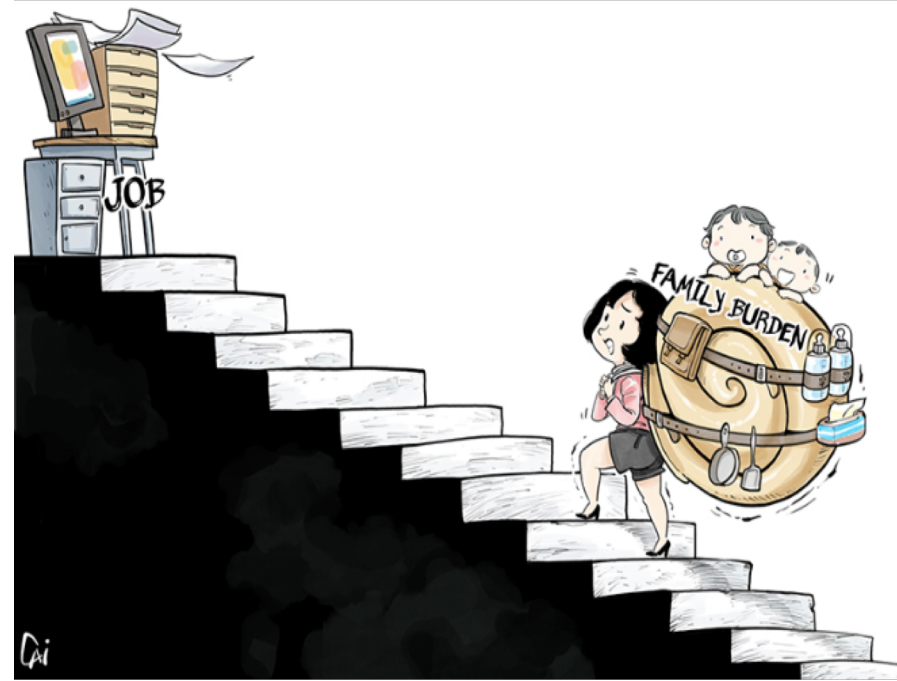
Life is about carrying burdens. It breaks down into a matter of responsibilities. Responsibilities upon responsibilities. Material

responsibilities, relational responsibilities, responsibilities to the community, to work, church, etc. For instance, one type of responsibility is that most adult people take on the burden/responsibility of **financial debt.**

That is just one form of burden. Some people have to deal with the terrible burden of pain! Our bodies have so very many moving parts, and any one of them can break down and begin causing our whole body to recoil in perpetual pain and bad health. Nerves are a great blessing, but a nightmare if they are registering a condition of extreme and/or unrelenting distress/pain!



Some people have to take on too much responsibility! This can make life pretty miserable, when a person always feels exhausted and yet must keep pushing. Work and home, work and home. It adds up to an overwhelming heap of burdens!



There is also the burden of guilt! Shame and guilt, like pain, are good things, letting us know that we need a course correction. But sometimes it goes wrong – turns obsessive and destructive – goes into depression, or drives us to manifest our guilt in other ways.



And then there is the burden of aging – of growing old. This is a huge burden for most people! It takes great courage and determination to get past what is happening to one's body and mind and remain optimistic, But this weighs on everyone as people age. It is one of life's great burdens. But it too is a valuable (if seemingly merciless) reminder that death is nearing, and so we must bring things to a close.





All of these burdens I've mentioned just
begin to scratch the surface of all the
burdens out there.

But then there is this burden that Jesus
offers to – HIS burden!

It should be a big one – a great disruption & huge bother. But, counter-intuitively, it is not! When we “receive” Jesus and are reconciled to God, we take upon ourselves His “yoke”. We add His “burdens” to the personal burdens that we are already under!



Matt. 6:33 – “*But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*”

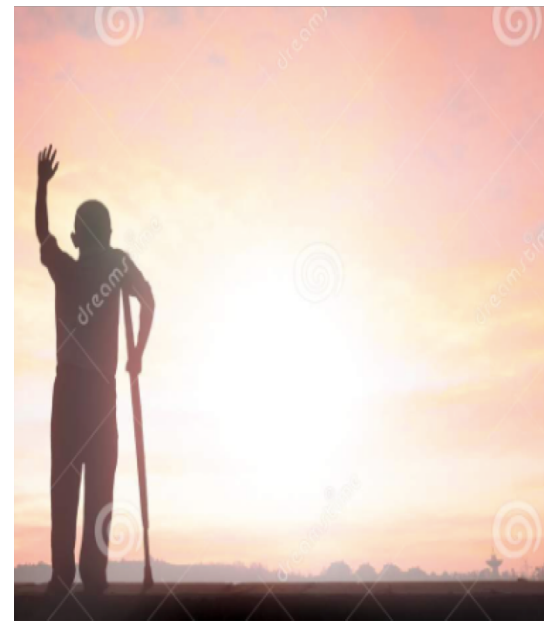


Vs. 25,26 The passage begins by saying who can/ who may respond to the gospel affirmatively. It is the “small” people, the unimportant, the disenfranchised, the poor, the disabled. But more than that, it is the **HUMBLE!**

Prov. 3:34 – God “*mocks*” the proud.

James 4:6,7 – He “*opposes*” the unbelieving proud

1 Pet. 5:5,6 – God “*opposes*” the believing proud



So in this chapter, (and on through chapter 13), the writer is trying to show us the kind of person to look for that can respond to the gospel. It is the **humble** that will be more inclined to listen and seriously consider the truth claims of Jesus. Those that are heavily burdened, that life has brought down - illusions destroyed! These can finally see and hear!



Vs. 27 – Many people go overboard on these verses. In verses 25, 26, they draw the conclusion that God has purposefully hidden the gospel from certain, (actually, that would have to be *most*) individuals.

He did not come to hide God but to reveal Him! But what these words simply indicate is that the nature of the gospel, its construct, is naturally hidden from the proud! [1 Cor. 1:26-30]

