

WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD
PART 4 WALKING IN THE GENTLENESS & HUMILITY OF
CHRIST

(In step with Jesus' True Character)

Matthew 11:29 BLB **SLIDE**

*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for **I am gentle and humble in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls.*

We looked, last week, at the conditions and effects of being Yoked together with Jesus.

When we are Yoked In with Jesus we start in a state of Rest and find His Rest in everything we do.

We also saw that as we willingly submit to His will, then we walk and work in **His power, His purpose and at His pace** ...

But there's another wonderful result of walking and working together and being Yoked with Jesus.

It's mentioned in verse 29 ...

WE WILL START TO EXPERIENCE HIS GENTLENESS & HUMILITY

Let's look at our text again ...

Matthew 11:29 BSB **SLIDE**

*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; **for** I am gentle and humble in heart ...*

Now, the conjunction '**for**' is '**hoti**' which in many other places is translated '**that**'.

So, if we change '**for**' to '**that**' we see more clearly what Jesus is actually saying here –

Matthew 11:29 BSB **SLIDE**

*Take my Yoke upon you and learn ... **that** I am gentle and humble in heart ...*

In other words, Jesus is saying, '*If you become **Yoked to Me**, you will have the unique opportunity to **LEARN 2 THINGS** –*

1. '*You will learn and see **My true nature of gentleness and humility from which I do things – THE SPIRIT IN WHICH I DO ALL THINGS.***'

NB: JESUS IS HUMBLE IN HEART ... Jesus doesn't have to try to be Gentle and Humble ...

IT IS HIS NATURE ... HIS DIVINE CHARACTER ... HE IS ALREADY GENTLE & HUMBLE OF HEART.

This you will learn and see.

But that is not all you will learn ...

The second thing is ...

2. 'You will learn also to walk and work in the same Spirit of gentleness and humility as you see Me do.'

SLIDE JESUS IS SAYING, WHEN YOU DO THINGS 'WITH' ME, YOU WILL BECOME 'LIKE' ME.

YOU WILL LEARN MY 'GENTLE & HUMBLE' NATURE AND LEARN TO BECOME THAT WAY YOURSELF.

NB: THIS IS NOT TRYING TO BECOME HUMBLE LIKE JESUS.

WE CANNOT BECOME LIKE JESUS BY TRYING TO BE LIKE

JESUS.

WE BECOME LIKE JESUS BY BEING WITH JESUS ... BEING YOKED TO HIM – WALKING WITH HIM HIS WAY & AT HIS PACE.

Many of us have been taught that we must apply Biblical principles of behaviour to become more like Jesus ... which we struggle to do.

SLIDE WE PRACTICE, BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION TO LOOK & ACT BETTER & IT IS QUITE FALSE!

IT IS ONLY 'THE FORM OF GODLINESS' NOT THE POWER WITHIN.

(2 Timothy 3:5) IT IS ONLY EXTERNAL CLADDING.

IT'S ONLY WHEN WE ARE YOKED IN WITH JESUS THAT HIS TRUE BEAUTIFUL & WONDERFUL CHARACTER COMES OUT IN US.

Being Yoked to Him brings out the real person inside we are In Christ, which organically begins to grow on the outside.

SLIDE YOU SEE, AS BORN-AGAIN BELIEVERS, WE ALREADY HAVE HIS GENTLE & HUMBLE CHARACTER WITHIN US.

Galatians 2:20 NKJV

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me ...

2 Corinthians 13:5 BSB

Can't you see for yourselves that **Jesus Christ is in you ...**

JESUS' GENTLENESS & HUMILITY IS ALREADY IN US ...

But as we Yoke In with Him in all we do – as we allow Him to lead us and show us how He works ... then what is already within us will begin to come out.

We will become like Jesus outwardly ...

WHEN WE ARE YOKED IN WITH JESUS ... THE NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE IN US SAYS, 'Yes, this expresses who I am. This is the way I am supposed to walk ... This is how I am supposed to work ... I've been waiting for this day ... Now I feel comfortable ... This is who I am ... This is the real me – I am Gentle and Humble of heart ...'

WE START EXPRESSING WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

➤ **WE ARE BORN-AGAIN TO LIVE THIS WAY**

TO BE A NEW CREATION PERSON, WALKING IN STEP WITH JESUS, IS THE MOST NATURAL EXPERIENCE WE COULD EVER HAVE.

YOU FIND YOU WERE BORN-AGAIN TO LIVE THIS WAY.

IN FACT ... as a born-again believer ... if I am Yoked In with Jesus who is Gentle and Humble of Heart ... I won't be able to stop His Gentleness and Humility from rising within my heart and beginning to manifest through me.

WE BECOME WHO WE ARE WHEN WE ARE YOKED IN WITH HIM.

SLIDE

PROBLEM IS MANY OF US ARE NOT YOKED IN WITH JESUS AND ... EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE CHRIST'S LIFE & CHARACTER ... THE NEW LIFE WITHIN US REMAINS LOCKED AWAY IN A 'SAFE PLACE' WITHIN US.

WE HAVE OUR PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH HIM where He reveals to us His Gentleness and Humility but ... we walk out of that place and put on our Religious Robes and we never let the Life and Character within us come out.

SLIDE

IF YOU DO THINGS 'WITH' JESUS ... YOKED IN WITH HIM ... YOU WILL START TO BE 'LIKE' JESUS AND ... HE IS GENTLE & HUMBLE OF HEART.

IS THIS WHAT WE SEE IN THE CHURCH TODAY?

I WANT TO SUGGEST THAT **ANY MINISTER WHO IS TRULY WORKING WITH JESUS** (that is Yoked to Him in the Task) **WILL CONSEQUENTLY DISPLAY CHRIST'S GENTLE & HUMBLE NATURE IN WHAT THEY DO!**

BUT IS THIS WHAT WE SEE?

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, MANY OF US HAVE BEEN HURT BY **SLIDE DOMINEERING, FORCEFUL & AGGRESSIVE MINISTERS.**

I used to call one church leader the Christian-Mafia-Boss. He was hard and controlling ...

THIS GENTLENESS & HUMILITY OF JESUS IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE WAY OF DOING HIS WORK ... THE WORK OF GOD.

This can also set us free from the hurt that some controlling and aggressive leaders have caused us.

CONVERSELY IF YOU SEE LEADERS & PEOPLE MINISTERING IN THE GENTLENESS & HUMILITY OF JESUS ... YOU CAN CONCLUDE THAT **THEY ARE 'YOKED IN WITH HIM'** ... AS HIS BEAUTIFUL CHARACTER ... HIS HEART ... STARTS TO BE SEEN.

LOOK AT THE APOSTLE PAUL.

Formerly he was a hard, religious leader of the Sanhedrin ... But after being yoked in with Jesus he became like Jesus in his ministry.

2 Corinthians 10:1 NIV **SLIDE**

*By **the humility and gentleness of Christ**, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” toward you when away!*

➤ **THIS IS THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT TO THE WORLD**

THE WORLD IS HOSTILE ... AGGRESSIVE ... BOMBASTIC ... ARROGANT ... DOMINEERING ... PROUD ... etc

TO MINISTER & ACT IN THE GENTLENESS & HUMILITY OF JESUS IS **TO MINISTER IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT TO THE WORLD.**

This is shining our light into the darkness.

THIS IS ALLOWING A NEW LIFE TO BE UNLEASHED UPON THIS EARTH. A FOREIGN CHARACTER ... THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST.

1 John 3:1 BSB

Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

'Behold what manner of love' has the picture of men looking out to sea, straining to see what country an approaching foreign ship is from.

And in the same way, God's love is Foreign Love to this world.

SLIDE *There is a scene in the movie, 'BEN HUR' when Jesus is confronted by a Roman guard for giving Ben Hur water. Jesus stands up and simply looks at the guard in His Strong and Gentle manner. And the guard turns away ...*

THERE IS NO FEAR IN THIS GENTLENESS & HUMILITY.

THERE IS AMAZING SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.

THIS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF GENTLENESS & HUMILITY IN ACTION. IT IS A POWERFUL SPIRITUAL STAND.

Satan operates in the opposite spirit. He was cast out of heaven for his pride. He is king over all the proud. He is aggressive ...

controlling ... dominating ... manipulating ...

IT IS HIS SPIRIT IN MANKIND (Ephesians 2:2)

YOU ARE IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT TO HIM.

The Spirit of Christ's True Humility leaves the devil powerless.

CHRIST'S TRUE HUMILITY IS NOT UNDERSTOOD BY THE WORLD SYSTEM ...

It's acceptable with the world to get aggressive ... in fact it's encouraged in capitalism ... in business ...

There are books about 'Marketing warfare'.

Frustration in business is expected ... in politics ... in management ... 'meekness is associated with weakness' ...

To get ahead it's 'Dog eat Dog' ... the survival of the fittest.

BUT IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD WE OPERATE IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT ... TRULY GENTLE & SINCERELY HUMBLE.

“Humility” is the Greek word *prautes*. It is a powerful word that suggests strength under control ...

Someone not full of their own self-importance.

They know who they are and don't have to try and impress or promote themselves ...

NOT HAUGHTY ... NOT SELF-CONSCIOUS

“Gentleness” is the Greek word *epiekeia*, NOT AGGRESSIVE ... FORCEFUL ... CONTROLLING ... but gracious, courteous, tolerant, accepting.

SIMPLY PUT: GENTLENESS IS JESUS' MANNER OF OPERATING; HUMILITY IS HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD HIMSELF.

THIS HUMILITY CANNOT BE ATTAINED BY ANY HUMAN BEING, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY GIVE UP ... OR TRY AND HUMBLE THEMSELVES ... IT IS AN ANOMOLY ...

JESUS IS THE ONLY TRULY HUMBLE PERSON THAT EVER CAME TO EARTH ... BECAUSE HE DIDN'T BECOME HUMBLE ...

PERFECT HUMILITY IS THE STATE OF HIS HEART ...

HE IS HUMBLE OF HEART ...

HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HUMBLE ... EVEN BEFORE HE CAME TO EARTH ...

IT'S NOT WHAT HE DOES.

HUMILITY IS THE STATE OF HIS HEART.

HOWEVER, JESUS' HUMILITY HAD TO BE TESTED & TRIED AND COME OUT IN TACT. It was a part of the glory of God.

So we see for 33 years Jesus' Character of Humility was tested and tried ... and in every instance He triumphed!

JESUS NEVER PUT HIMSELF FORWARD AS ANYONE GREAT ... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS THE GREATEST OF ALL PEOPLE WHO EVER LIVED.

Philippians 2:6-8 NKJV **SLIDES x 2**

*[Jesus] being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but **made Himself** of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became **obedient to the point of death**, even the death of the cross.*

NB: Jesus ‘made Himself of no reputation ...’

FROM HIS BIRTH TO HIS DEATH JESUS PROVED THE TRUE HEART OF HIS HUMILITY

HIS BIRTH SLIDE

He choose where and to whom He would be born:

- He chose to be conceived by a virgin, giving grounds for charges of illegitimacy (Matthew 1:18-19).
- He chose a mother who spoke freely of her low estate (Luke 1:48) and an earthly father who as a carpenter was so very poor that he had to take advantage of the optional sacrifice permitted to those under humble circumstances (Luke 2:24).
- He chose a barn as His place of birth, a feed-trough as His crib, and lowly shepherds as His first visitors.
- He grew up by choice in a town so despised that a proverb asked, *“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”*

Who of us would have made such choices?

HIS WORK SLIDE

Before beginning His recorded ministry, **He chose** to work with His hands as a carpenter (Mark 6:3). **No Task was above Him**

He owned no home of His own (Luke 9:58). He was cared for by His disciples.

HIS EQUALS SLIDE

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS EQUAL WITH GOD ... JESUS NEVER THOUGHT OF HIMSELF ABOVE ANYONE ... HE ACCEPTED the poor and downtrodden, the sick and handicapped, publicans, women and children, Samaritans and Gentiles

HIS COMMUNITY CONFESSED THAT HE WAS HUMBLE

Matthew 13:55 NLT

Then they scoffed, ‘He’s just the carpenter’s son and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas.

They were saying, He’s just **an ordinary man** – a commoner – **nothing special** (and they said it for 30 years).

HIS SELF-EFFACEMENT

HE MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION

JESUS KNEW THE TRAP OF TITLES WHERE MEN & WOMAN THINK THEMSELVES IMPORTANT & SUPERIOR & YET ARE NOT.

When they came by force to make Him King He rebuked them and went away (John 6:15)

When the devil offered Him all The Kingdoms of the world Jesus rebuked the devil (Luke 4:4, 8&12)

He had every right to be known as “The Son of God” and He did not reject that designation ... But **when He spoke of Himself, 80 times (as recorded in the Gospels) it was as “the Son of Man.”**

HIS BOND-SERVICE SLIDE

John 13:3-5

*Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴rose from supper and laid aside His garments, **took a towel and girded Himself** ⁵... **and began to wash the disciples' feet ...***

HIS HUMILIATING DEATH SLIDE

HE DESPISED THE SHAME – standing before pompous, petty, yet powerful little rulers, saying not a word to defend Himself. Climaxing it all by humbling Himself and becoming “*obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross*” (Philippians 2:8), the most horrible, painful, **shameful death** that depraved human minds could devise.

HIS POWERFUL ETERNAL POSITION SLIDE

**EVEN THOUGH HE HAS CONQUERED DEATH, SIN & SATAN ...
EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN HIGHLY EXALTED AND GIVEN A NAME ABOVE EVERY OTHER NAME (Philippians 2:9) AND IS KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS ...**

HE REMAINS AS GENTLE & AS HUMBLE AS A LITTLE LAMB.

WE SEE HIM ... IN ALL THIS ... ‘AS A LAMB UPON THE THRONE’ –

Revelation 7:17 BSB

*For **the Lamb in the centre of the throne** will be their shepherd. ‘He will lead them to springs of living water,’ and ‘God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’ ”*

THE POWER & AUTHORITY OF GENTLENESS & HUMILITY

THE GREATEST & MOST POWERFUL RULER OF ALL TIME & ETERNITY WAS DESCRIBED AS A LAMB ... GENTLE & HUMBLE.

SO FOR US HERE TODAY WE ARE INSTRUCTED ...

Philippians 2:3-5 NKJV

*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but **in lowliness of mind** let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*

NB: **'Let'** – The Character of Christ wants to come forward ... We must **'let'** it come forward ...

Ephesians 4:1-2 BSB **SLIDE**

*... Walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received: ²**with all humility and gentleness**, with patience, bearing with one another in love.*