

My Yoke is Easy

Matthew 10:1-30

Overview of Matthew 1-10

Chapters 1-3: Connecting Jesus to the Old Testament

Chapters 4-7: Jesus' announcement that the Kingdom of God had arrived, and reveals what it takes to live as a member of that Kingdom.

Chapters 8-10: Nine different stories of Jesus bringing the Kingdom into people's lives through different healings and deliverances.

Chapter 11 is a transition point in Gospel of Matthew. Some people accept Jesus and his words, some question him, and some reject him outright.

Matthew 11:2-3 John the Baptizer was a prophet of God who believed that he was the one sent out before the Messiah to announce His coming. John called Jesus "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world."

As John spent time in prison he began to wonder if he had been mistaken and was Jesus really the good news for which he had been waiting. John shows us that even those who believe in Jesus may suffer from doubt. John had earlier been very sure that Jesus was the Messiah (**Matthew 3:11-13**) and now he sends his disciples to confirm with Jesus that He is indeed the one who was to come.

Matthew 11:4-6 Jesus answers John's question by telling of His actions and miracles. Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah who tells of the coming Messiah. He is telling John to look at what is happening and to draw his own conclusion.

Isaiah 35:5-6 "And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!"

Malachi 3:1 "Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming."

Matthew 11:7-10 Jesus quotes Malachi to point out that He has fulfilled this prophesy about the Messiah. That Jesus is the Lord we are all seeking, the one who walked to his temple, the messenger of the new covenant through which all of us have life in Christ.

Matthew 11:11-14 Jesus quotes Malachi 4:5 "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord arrives." Jesus shares that all the prophets of the Old Testament looked forward to the coming of the Messiah.

Jesus places John on the list of these Old Testament heroes who were sent to prepare the way for Christ and gives him the highest place of honor, "none is greater than John the Baptist."

John was the divide between the Old and New eras. The arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven ushers in a greater era than any preceding it.

Matthew 11:15 We should listen and understand and not risk missing entry into this Kingdom.

Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus addressed the hypocrisy regarding those who opposed both him and John. The people were presented with two lifestyles.

One lifestyle was like John the Baptist, a serious life of lament that was honored by God because it led to repentance.

The other lifestyle was like Jesus, who celebrated and feasted, bringing healing to broken people, a life honored by God.

Both lifestyles called people to repent and the people who opposed Jesus did not want either way of repentance. They claimed John was possessed by demons and claimed Jesus was a glutton and a drunkard associating with sinners.

Matthew 11:20-24 There were those who were unwilling to repent. They had witnessed God's power in the miracles Jesus performed and they did not believe. They rejected the evidence the Holy Spirit put before their eyes.

Matthew 11:25-26 The religious leaders who challenged Jesus had exceptional knowledge based on the word of God, the law and prophets. Knowing the Bible well is no guarantee to openness to His Word. They missed the movement of God in Jesus, the promised Messiah.

Knowing all the right answers is not wisdom. Not knowing the answers and trusting in the Lord is where wisdom is found.

Job 12:24-25 Proverbs 3:5-7; 12:15; 16:2; 21:2; 26:12 Job 28:28 Psalm 111:10 Proverbs 1:7; 9:10

Matthew 11:27 "Jesus' nature is ineffable and inconceivable, like the Father's. For only the divine nature of the Trinity comprehends itself. Only the Father knows his own Son, the fruit of his own substance. Only the divine Son recognizes the One by whom he has been begotten. Only the Holy Spirit knows the deep things of God, the thoughts of Father and Son" (quote from 1600 years ago)

Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus addresses the people who could see him for who he was, the Messiah. He speaks to the weary Jews who did not have the strength to bear the yoke of the law. Jesus' yoke is in stark contrast to the burden of Pharisaic Judaism with their endless list of laws and commandments

"In our quest to know God's Word it is good to remember that we can turn Jesus' yoke into an equally unbearable burden unless we consciously recognize that discipleship to Jesus is not essentially a religious obligation. Rather, ours is an intimate relationship with the One who calls, "Come to me" and "learn from me." As complicated as life may become, discipleship at heart simply means walking with Jesus in the real world and having him teach us moment by moment how to live life his way."

We are to humbly recognize that we are totally and completely dependent on God, being grateful for what He has done for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of 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 at

heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

Small Group Discussion Questions

My Yoke is Easy Matthew 10:1-30

1. If you could be anywhere in the world right now on vacation, where would we find you?
2. How do you perceive John the Baptist's doubts about Jesus being the Messiah?
3. How can Jesus' response to John's doubt provide comfort when you experience moments of uncertainty in your faith journey?
4. What are some of the doubts that satan can tempt a Christian with? What are some of the doubts you have faced as a Believer
5. What are some specific ways this chapter can help you when you have doubts regarding your faith?
6. How does Jesus' response to John's disciples provide assurance about His identity?
7. What does Jesus mean by saying the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John?
8. How does Jesus' lament over these cities affect your understanding of His call to repentance?
9. What does the metaphor of Jesus' yoke being easy and His burden light mean to you?
10. How would you respond to someone who, like John, expresses doubts about Jesus' messianic identity?
11. How does Jesus' invitation to rest apply to your current life situation?
12. How can you practically take on Jesus' yoke and learn from Him in your daily life?
13. What does it mean to be childlike in understanding God's truths?

Personal Study Guide

Wisdom and Discernment

Job 12:24-25

Proverbs 3:5-7

Proverbs 12:15

Proverbs 16:2

Proverbs 21:2

Proverbs 26:12

Job 28:28

Psalms 111:10

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 9:10

James 1:5

Ephesians 5:6-10

1 John 4:1

Romans 12:2

James 3:13-18

Matthew 7:24

Romans 11:33-35