



JULY 5, 2020

LOVE FIRST, FIRST LOVE

WEEK DEVOTIONAL BASED ON SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS 9:00AM AT
WWW.FIRSTLUTHERAN-BARRON.ORG OR ON THE RADIO 97.7FM

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

16 "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 17 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

25 At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

HOLDING IN PRAYER

For health and healing we pray for: Lois Schultz, Gladys Hansen, Valeri Scheps, DeAnn Anderson, Eugene Olson, Ron Kahl, Kathy Weghorn, Betty Missling and Gail Larson

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

REFLECTION

BY PASTOR RON MATHEWS

Christ said: **“Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me”** This is a call to discipleship and the means by which the wise are able to find respite. Where the weary and heavy burdened may find rest.

“Take”

In Greek, this word comes from “airo” and means “to take up, lift up.” This word is an aorist imperative and represents a decision. Placed at the beginning of this sentence this word would be best described meaning: “to take on oneself what has already been lifted in order to carry it.” This one word has two important things for us. First, this phrase is equivalent to later in Matthew 16:24: “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’” Secondly, it represents a choice, a decision that must be made to either take up the cross and submit to the Lord or to not.

“My yoke”

Christ is handing us His yoke to continue on and carry it. The yoke has already been lifted for us. The heavy lifting of picking the yoke up is done, we are simply being asked to just carry it. However, there is still a burden. Jesus did not say “I will remove all yokes.” And He isn’t handing us just any yoke, rather He is handing us His yoke. There is a hardship to living a life of obedience to God. Namely, living a life that does not put self-gratification first, but rather lives for others.

“Learn”

In Greek, this word comes from “manthano,” which means “to learn by inquiry, use and practice, and to acquire the habit of.” When Jesus says we are to learn from him, he is talking about learning through experience or practice rather than through book studies and instruction. This verb is in the

continuous present tense, which means the action is continually happening, without end. Jesus is describing a process of discipleship, of the journey in growth in wisdom. He is describing a journey that has no end and is learned primarily through doing rather than study.

Wisdom is more than the acquisition of information, it is also the application of that information to impact the lives of others for the benefit and glory of our Lord.

This one verse describes Christ’s entire philosophy of discipleship being the development of creating habits through practice. A disciple of God lives with the attitude of a learner, of one who continuously takes in and seeks to apply the information that comes from God.

A mature Christian knows what is right and what is just. Led by the wisdom of the Spirit, a mature Christian acts out of consideration for others before self. A Christian who is mature in the Spirit lives in obedience to the call to live under the weight of God’s yoke. Christ says His yoke is lighter as He does the heavy lifting for us, lifting up the weight of our sins and failures. But the yoke remains for us to carry. We are still led, driven even, to where God directs us. The yoke is our burden of faith to carry. The weight of decisions to choose to live for God rather than self. The hardship of obedience to something greater than ourselves.

WHAT YOKES DO YOU CARRY FOR CHRIST?

WHAT BURDENS DO YOU CARRY THAT YOU NEED TO GIVE TO GOD TO CARRY FOR YOU?

