

Rest for the Weary Soul

Introduction:

Work can be either a pleasant or miserable experience depending on the nature of one's boss. Some people are miserable to work for while others are a joy.

The Scripture provides us with an example of a king that was miserable to serve.

1 Ki 12:1 (NASB) Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

1 Ki 12:2 (NASB) Now it came about when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it, that he was living in Egypt (for he was yet in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon).

1 Ki 12:3 (NASB) Then they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

1 Ki 12:4 (NASB) "Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

1 Ki 12:3 (NASB) Then they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

1 Ki 12:4 (NASB) "Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

1 Ki 12:5 (NASB) Then he said to them, "Depart for three days, then return to me." So the people departed.

1 Ki 12:6 (NASB) And King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you counsel me to answer this people?"

1 Ki 12:7 (NASB) Then they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to this people today, will serve them, grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

1 Ki 12:8 (NASB) But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him.

1 Ki 12:9 (NASB) So he said to them, "What counsel do you give that we may answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

1 Ki 12:10 (NASB) And the young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall say to this people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, now you make it lighter for us!' But you shall speak to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins!'

1 Ki 12:11 (NASB) 'Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with

scorpions."

1 Ki 12:12 (NASB) Then Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as the king had directed, saying, "Return to me on the third day."

1 Ki 12:13 (NASB) And the king answered the people harshly, for he forsook the advice of the elders which they had given him,

1 Ki 12:14 (NASB) and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

Therefore, the people refused to serve the king.

1 Ki 12:16 (NASB) When all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; To your tents, O Israel! Now look after your own house, David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

Theme: We are encouraged to serve Jesus Christ the king because it is not an arduous task to serve the Lord but rather a refreshing and rewarding experience.

I. There are many who have lost heart in practicing their religious faith.

Mat 11:28 (NASB) "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

II. The reason that they have lost heart is due to the grievous commands that they had to endure.

Mat 11:28 (NASB) "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

To be heavy-laden carries the imagery of a pack animal who has been forced to carry a load that is about to break its back.

III. Jesus invites those who have encountered a burdensome religious practice to be refreshed through Him.

Mat 11:28 (NASB) "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

2 Cor 7:13 (NASB) For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

1 Cor 16:17 (NASB) And I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus; because they have supplied what was lacking on your part.

1 Cor 16:18 (NASB) For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

Phile 1:7 (NASB) For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

- IV. Jesus invites those who have lost heart in practicing their religious faith to serve Him.

Mat 11:29 (NASB) "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and **YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

Jer 27:11 (NASB) "But the nation which will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let remain on its land," declares the LORD, "and they will till it and dwell in it.""

- V. They are refreshed by learning more about Jesus.

Mat 11:29 (NASB) "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and **YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

- A. We are refreshed in learning that Jesus is mild.

Mat 11:29 (NASB) "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and **YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

- B. We are refreshed in learning that Jesus does not act like a typical king.

Mat 11:29 (NASB) "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and **YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

- C. We are refreshed in that we experience an oasis in life.

Mat 11:29 (NASB) "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and **YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**

- VI. The reason that we find a rest in serving Jesus.

A. We find rest in serving Jesus because He is charitable.

Mat 11:30 (NASB) "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

He is not like the king who disciplines with whips and scorpions.

1 Ki 12:11 (NASB) "Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

B. We find rest because the backpack He gives us we carry is to carry is light.

Mat 11:30 (NASB) "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

VII. Conclusion: