

## TEAMED UP WITH JESUS

Matthew 11:28-30

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Jesus uses an illustration which was very familiar in His day and that same image is seen even today in various parts of the world as well as in the history of our own country (America) and that image is of a pair of oxen, mules, horses, etc., being hooked (yoked) together to work as a team. Think about it - being a partner with the Lord Jesus Christ, sharing a "harness," doing what He is doing. What is involved, required to be teamed up with Jesus?

### I. THERE MUST FIRST BE SURRENDER

1. Being under the "yoke" was a figure of speech that spoke of someone being conquered by another, such as Israel being under the rule of Rome and it was not a voluntary act.
2. Jesus says to "...*Take My yoke upon you...*" demanding a FULL surrender, not just a little bit of one's life.
  - Whenever one does yield completely to the Lord Jesus, his/her life is flooded with a sense of ease.
  - Surrendering to the Lord Jesus means liberation and no person is really him/herself until there is a full surrender to the Lord.
3. "...*Take My yoke upon you...and find....rest....*"

### II. THE SURRENDER MUST BE VOLUNTARY, DELIBERATE, WILLING

1. When one overpowers another, the weaker is forced, compelled to "bear the yoke."
2. Jesus demands a surrender that is WILLING, voluntary, deliberate.
  - Nothing will be forced upon anyone who willingly surrenders to be yoked with Jesus.
3. Believers/Christians are children of the Heavenly Father, made in His image and may choose to take Jesus' yoke or refuse to take it.

### III. BEING YOKED (TEAMED) WITH JESUS MEANS ACTION, SERVICE

1. Whenever a yoke was used, at least two oxen were teamed up together for the purpose of work, doing something, not to be idle.
  - The yoke is a symbol of service.
2. All one's life is service in one way, form or another but to be yoked, teamed up with the Lord Jesus the service is different for God is near, love is everywhere and strength is sufficient for whatever the Lord wants one to do with Him.

### III. TEAMED UP WITH THE LORD JESUS BRINGS PEACE

1. As busy as Jesus was during His ministry, He was always at peace inside.
  - Crowds, multitudes around Him, doing this miracle and that miracle, He always moved around in an attitude of ease and peace.
2. Whenever one works and is active without time for prayer or thoughts about God, his/her nerves get on edge and one is often tempted to just give up and walk away.
3. Being teamed up with the Lord Jesus is to serve with Him in the same spirit that made His life and service so calm, peaceful, beautiful and meaningful.
  - Jesus had peace when things grew tough and almost unbearable and He never gave in and never quit until He went to the Cross, His goal from the beginning.

### IV. BEING TEAMED UP WITH THE LORD JESUS IS BEING ALONG SIDE HIM

1. Being "double yoked" is to be along side another, hooked together, going the same direction, pulling the same load, all at the same time.
  - Sometimes a young, inexperienced ox, mule, horse was yoked along side an older experienced one and being teamed up with Jesus is the same picture.
2. Jesus wants to teach those who believe in Him how to live, how to carry on, how to do His work and therefore He is willing to be "yoked" together with those who believe in Him.
3. Jesus offers partnership with Him as one goes through his/her life, wanting each believer to live his/her life together with the Lord Jesus Christ.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Why would the Lord Jesus Christ want to be "yoked" together with us? He is the Son of God, why in the world would He ever want to be that close to someone who still is sinful, disobedient, untrustworthy?
2. Jesus wants us to share our lives with Him and He wants to share His life with us/believers.
3. The only way any believer can do what God wants, the way God wants it done is to do it like Jesus and to do it like Jesus means one has to be close to Him.
4. Jesus tells believers to *"...Take My yoke upon you..."*
5. Have you? If not, why not do it right now?