**Opening Scripture**

*Isaiah 10:27 KJV*

*And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.*

**Intro Question: Is the christian life a burden that leads men to fear, frustration, and hypocrisy? Or Is the christian life a life long journey with a loving Savior that produces transformation in us through relationship?**

*Matthew 11:25-30 KJV*

*At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. [26] Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. [27] All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. [28] Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

**What is a Yoke? (as referred to in verses 29-30)**

A yoke is something (most times a wooden block) that ties one animal together with another particularly, for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the animal to plow the field. The Plowman or (farmer) binds the yoke upon the neck of the oxen, so that it would not fall off or be shaken off. A Yoke bound around the neck of man would cause his strength to diminish, one can waver and fall under the load of the yoke. Farmers used to yoke the young ox with the old experienced ox to train them. The old ox will take the major load and the young one will be walking along and learning from him.

Throughout the scriptures the yoke was a symbol of servitude and bondage to slavery, thus conversely the scriputres illustrate freedom from bondage as the breaking of the yoke.

**Freedom from religious bondage begins by entering into relationship with Jesus.**

*Matthew 11:28-30 MSG*

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me— watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*

(Cite v. 28 “Come to me”...Expound on how religion and law keeping can wear you out contrasted with the freedom of relationship with a Savior that loves you beyond your flaws)

**Take Advantage of God’s “Take a Child to Work Day Events” which are happening all the time.**

(Cite v. Walk with me and work with me-watch how I do it...Explain what Take a Child to work day is naturally and then compare it to Jesus’ submission to His Father’s will throughout his public ministry on full display for the disciples to see)

*John 14:6-12 NLT*

*Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. [7] If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” [8] Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” [9] Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?*

*[10] Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. [11] Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do. [12] “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.*

(As we look at Jesus we see God’s nature and God’s will in full expression, therefore the more time we spend time with Jesus the means of prayer, study and meditation on His Word, fellowship with the saints, participating in the work of the ministry, practicing the presence of the Lord; the greater the opportunity for transformation)

**Meditation on God’s Love for You empowers you to bear fruit for Him (Not our own effort)**

*John 4:25-35 NLT*

*The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” [26] Then Jesus told her, “ I AM the Messiah!” [27] Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” [28] The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, [29] “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” [30] So the people came streaming from the village to see him. [31] Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.” [32] But Jesus replied, “I have a kind of food you know nothing about.” [33] “Did someone bring him food while we were gone?” the disciples asked each other. [34] Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. [35] You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.*

(Expound on the experience of the woman at the well with the unconditional love of God and her response to essentially evangelize her enter village...then highlight Jesus’ satisfaction in fulfilling the will of God.) \*Close\*