

LEARNING TO BEAR THE YOKE (2)

Lamentation 3:27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In an earlier lesson we noted some valuable lessons suggested by a statement made by Jeremiah in Lam 3:27. As noted then there are many valuable lessons in the Old Testament Rom 15:4 - Note Matt 11:29 "Take My yoke"
- B. Jeremiah's words are desperately needed in our society today. There are many lessons we need to be teaching the young people that are not being taught as they should: parents have failed to train their children to "bear the yoke".
- D. As the young Ox or Horse is trained to "bear the yoke" or "wear the harness" so the young person must learn the practical and valuable lesson of submission and endurance
- E. For the lesson now I want to notice some other passages in the Old and New Testament that address some other "yokes" we must learn to bear. I want us to look at three other ideas suggested by statements made in scripture from which we can make some practical applications to our lives.

DISCUSSION:

I. YOKE OF SUBMISSION TO AUTHORITY

- A. This submission to authority begins as parents teach children Eph 6:4;
 - 1. Solomon speaks often concerning this responsibility Prov 29:15,17; 19:18; 13:24; 22:6,15; 23:13,14
 - 2. Nothing is taught any more clearly in Scripture Eph 6:1,2; Rom 1:30-32
- B. Parents who do not try to train children are disobeying God just as much as the murderer or the fornicator
 - 1. From tract **under loving command** "It is the disciplined spirit that is free to blossom to its fullest because it is not thrown by circumstances." "It is the pruned vine that flourishes and bears fruit." Jhn 15:2
 - 2. We as parents must follow through and be consistent when we speak
- C. By children learning this obedience in the home they are prepared for subjection to other authorities - they learn to have self-discipline, so they can be in subjection.
 - 1. First of all to God Eccl 12:1
 - 2. Wives to husbands 1Pet 3:1
 - 3. To civil authorities Rom 13:1-7
 - 4. In the work place Eph 6:5-8
 - 5. To one another, etc. Eph 5:21
- D. The reason for so much rebellion to God's law as well as civil law is because children were not trained to "bear the yoke" of submission to authority

II. THE YOKE OF HARD WORK

- A. God intended from the beginning for man to work
 - 1. Dress and keep the garden Gen 2:15
 - 2. Earn a living by the sweat of the face Gen 3:19
- B. One who won't work is not to eat 2Thess 3:10; see also 1Tim 5:8
 - 1. When children bear this yoke it makes them appreciate things a lot more
 - 2. The work ethic can and must be taught. Note these passages from Proverbs 10:4; 12:24; 13:4; 14:23
- C. Work is required by God and must be learned by our youth and they learn it from their parents

III. THE YOKE OF SERVICE TO GOD

- A. When children are taught from the cradle up that they must be in subjection to authority and that this authority teaches them that they must work, then the responsibility to serve God just comes natural
- B. We are taught to always abound in the work of the Lord 1Cor 15:58
 - 1. This applies to the young as well as the old
 - 2. From our youth we must learn to put God first Matt 6:33
- C. This service or work must be performed with "gladness" Psa 100:2
 - 1. There is work for each member Eph 4:16
 - 2. This all begins in childhood Eccl 12:1

CONCLUSION:

- A. As noted previously, it is the responsibility of parents to put the "yoke" on their children Eph 6:4
- B. The blame for apostasy in the Lord's church as well as the problems in the civil realm lies primarily, although not totally, at the feet of parents.
- C. Just as a young animal is more trainable than an older one, so it is much easier to train children to do right than it is to reform those who have grown up without being taught to "bear the yoke."
- D. Jeremiah's statement in Lam 3:27 is still true. Indeed it is good for a man that he learn to bear the yoke in his youth.
- E. When one has learned these lessons well, it makes for a much smoother transition from youthfulness to adulthood and the responsibilities that are attendant thereto. This likewise applies in the spiritual realm.
- F. It is a fact that for one to come to God he must humble himself in submission to God's will, be willing to endure suffering, exercise the proper control of himself and work in God's service otherwise he cannot come to God.