

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (2020)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine: Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day;
Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee.
Amen.

Matthew 11:25–30 At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 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. *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*”

In the Name of Jesus.

My dear ones, dear to God:

Either Jesus does not know what any words MEAN—or He is sumpin’ else! Let’s go with sumpin’ else! ‘Fear not!’

Mister Internet tells me that yer average yoke weighs 11 kilograms. That’s 25 pounds to U. S. -us-USA. That’s for oxen. Speaking of us as oxen, Jesus speaks of a yoke that cannot be 11 OR 25 or ANY.....WORK....., because it is sumpin’ else. He changed, there, yoke to MEAN easy; then changed the weight of the word burden to be ‘light.’

No surprises here! He’s changed ALL the words, according to the Gospel According to Saint Matthew!

He changed ‘Why have you forsaken ME, the Good Son?’ to ‘This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.’

He changed THIS:

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard^[i] of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

He changed THAT... into THIS:

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”

‘Til the ‘end of the age,’ there is nothing else to do with what WE are, what WE bring to the table—Oh! My dear ones: How you and I PRE-EVALUATE what PROFIT the next man can possibly BE for us—or what LOSS!—before WE attach, before WE enter in, before WE love!—

Nothing that WE can do with what WE are, than to put on the burden: Moses and the Law and obedience and religion.

But; however; nevertheless; but now—(are you following?)

Jesus AIN'T Moses; and JESUS is NOT a man to future-cast what benefit or harm ANY MAN----WILL be! Or is! Or has been! He's a ruler unlike all rulers. He's a Man that's never been. So much so, that He scoops US up with HIMSELF, and lives as if there's NO GAP now between God and man because there is no gap now between Him and His disciples, God's children, the baptized!

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him,^[c] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son,^[d] with whom I am well pleased."

You have been baptized! ME TOO! Haha! THEY'RE ALL WRONG, children! GOD is NOT waiting for YOUR INPUT!

Baptized, not by John or Moses or the Law's demand for righteousness; but by the One Who answers Saint Paul cry about His wretched self! 'Who will save such a man like me?!' 'Thanks be to God!'

AND...AND.... the Lord does not ONLY save us by MAKING forgiveness and handing out forgiveness. He even REWORKS the LAW into something so changed, that even you, even I, can smile at those who would call out to us: 'Hey! WE are over HERE with the will of God! Come join the lot of us!'

Jesus says such people are an illusion. For HE has come, born of the Virgin Mary. And now, righteousness, being pleasing to God, is not in ANY...OTHER...MAN'S hands, hearts, mouths. What belongs those places—now—is to make God come to attention with the word 'FATHER!' And to give HIM His yoke for the day and burden: 'PRECISELY the way that WE love our enemies, YOU...BE SURE...TO LOVE....US! Today! But not just today!'

Because Post Jesus, THIS is where you find Heaven pleased:

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother^[e] will be liable to judgment; whoever insults^[d] his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell^[e] of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.^[f]

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic,^[h] let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not

even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers,^[i] what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Little ones: these ARE...NOT...COMMANDS! They are ALL the NEW arrangement where God and Man get all jumbled up together—and EVERY task He lays on US begins and ends with ‘Rise! From sleep; from death; from burden; from sin. Rise and live. On to Galilee!’

⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

The last few words of Matthew lay on the only bit of repentance Jesus lays on His disciples. He DARES to teach those who just about CANNOT...BE...TAUGHT—all the HE is; and the Resurrection and Life that now belongs to those who can only DOUBT IT!

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” says Jesus.

‘No...IT...AIN’T!’ say WE, in our unbelief-sin.

Otherwise, we would not only SING but LIVE ‘where He is there is no loss.’

My lovelies, hear your poor, miserable pastor-sinner.

The ONLY way that God CAN speak to us is NOT God’s fault!
So, even Jesus, King of the burdened, speaks of HIS burden and
HIS yoke; also HIS cross and HIS death; and
GIVES...THOSE.....

To anyone on whom the water falls down with His Name; His
Father’s Name; His Spirit’s Name; now all Three, all One, OURS.

To anyone who eats this Bread and drinks this Cup and is weary:

1. Of the load of the next man, and
2. The load I am, you am, we all are.

‘It’d be good for YOU to lose some weight, friend!’

‘Physician, heal thyself!’

Jesus is SO ‘on board’ with burdening God’s children with no
burden at all, that He even takes hold of the Law, and does what no
‘Law-buddy’ know how to do:

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the
Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For
truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota,
not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Children: Fear not! Not what the next man lays on you; nor of your self-inflicted morbid obesity of unrighteousness!

If you NEED to fear something, TRUST, with fear, that Jesus Christ really IS all that Saint Matthew makes Him out to be! He'll show you, here and now; and at the End.

For the Father's will is to be nothing but GIFT: to those who need to learn Him all over again, every day; His little ones; not the wise and learned about God; but children in the Name of Jesus.