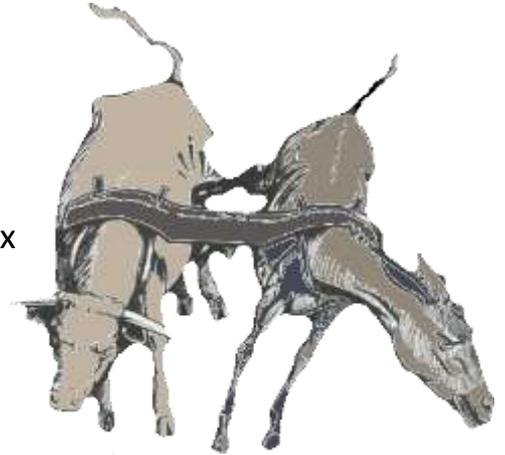


"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

{Matthew 11:28-30}

A farmer was ploughing his field. One team had a huge ox towering over the much smaller one. A visitor was surprised to see two unequal animals in the yoke together. The farmer explained the little ox was doing virtually no work at all but was being broken by the yoke.



I expect Jesus made many yokes in his father's carpenter shed. Understanding the importance between master and animal. The ox allowing his body to be yoked up. Then offering no resistance in dragging the heavy load of the laden cart to the master's will.

Jesus would know all about the painstaking work that involved attention to detail. All in order the yoke did not gall the ox's neck.

Today it may well feel the yoke is chaffing our bodies.

For the enormous task in being attentive to detail for the future simply adds to the load. Especially as government ministers with their experts using technology can only give us a best guess on how to plan.

It feels a good time to remind ourselves that we cannot always rely on human or machine power. What we can rely on is the yoke around our neck because this yoke belongs to Christ.

That everything we have learnt from Sunday School, Bible studies and all manner of courses such as The Alpha Course is surrounded by the trust we have in Christ. That Christ is the one groaning and weeping under the weight of sharing our troubles and concerns. Christ is the one encouraging us. Christ wants to take the weight from us.

We have many examples when Jesus was daunted by tasks being asked. Faint hearted and restless. Perhaps a little impatient. Anxious of strangers. Deeply concerned about the future.

Then He would go somewhere quiet to rest with the Father. Here He would seek guidance.

In the same way Jesus' words "come to me" give us the assurance that not only will He take care of the cattle He will also take care of us.

One way I can be submissive to Christ is through ironing.



I have some very interesting and honest conversations.

I leave nothing out.

Then I wait patiently for the weight in my heart to become lighter to bear.

In these times of functioning to seek adaptation in order to sustain life is the invite to take time to rest with Christ.

Come and know we are never alone.

Come and know we will never be abandoned.

Come and know Christ is beside us guiding us through the times we cannot see ahead.

Come and know we can rely on Christ's knowledge and strength.

Come to Christ and receive the certainty and security needed.

