



Living the Zugos Life





Worth 1000 Words?

- When you see this picture, what thoughts do you have?
- Does it stir any emotions in you?
- A conversation with a friend in ministry a while back
- On the outside, a highly respected effective leader, but on the inside, beset by so many fears.



One More Time

- For a couple of weeks now we have been discussing a new perspective on John 10:10 – one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible
- It says “The THEIF comes to kill, steal and destroy – and it is clearly referring to Jewish religious leaders, and for 1800 years the church taught nothing but that
- But an unknown SS program in the mid 1800s inserted Satan, and a guy named Arthur Pink put in it his 1901 commentary and it became very popular in fundamentalist circles



Look, he is still the enemy, but

- The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8
- ³⁰ Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. John 19:30
- And the power of the devil was broken forever
- However, he is still a liar, the father of lies, he is still our adversary and the accuser of the brethren, so he still has one weapon, only one, that could be used to kill, steal and destroy **our faith**, and what is it?????



Of Course ... LIES

- **Lies** that accuse us and deceive us and discourage us and divide us by producing fear and hopelessness in us by tricking us into focusing on our human weaknesses and failures – and the failures of those around us – instead of focusing on all the great and magnificent promises God has guaranteed to us through His love and power that are constantly flowing to us and through us that bring help, hope, freedom
- That's what was happening to my friend



Manifested as 2 Primal Fears

- I am not enough
- Since I am not enough, I won't be loved
- AND, If I am not loved, I will end up rejected, abandoned and alone – terrifying and FALSE
- We think we are alone, when we are NEVER ALONE



Great and Wonderful Promises

- Fear not, I am with you
- I will never leave you or forsake you
- The Lord is my **shepherd ...**
- Even when Adam and Eve left the Garden, but God didn't leave them
- I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who lived BUT CHRIST IS LIVING IN ME!!!!
- **We are always loved and never alone!!**



Surrounded by Lies Every Day

- It is inevitable that fear moves in, and we will gradually flame out and subtly fall back into just doing our best to make at least a little bit of a difference. We end up flapping instead of soaring, we lose the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the joy and expectation of looking forward confidently to what God is going to do, and end up scrambling to try to figure out what WE are going to do.
- When that happens, and it always happens, we need to reconnect with Jesus. But HOW?
- By realizing we were never disconnected!!!



One Incredible Invitation

- 27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. [Sooooooooo] ...
- 28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11



The Zugos Experience

- The Greek word for YOKE is ZUGOS
- a wooden bar placed over the neck of a *pair* of animals so they can pull *together*; (figuratively) what *unites* **(joins) two people to move (work) together as one.**
- How many of us think of ourselves as yoked with Jesus? How many would think of that as the pathway to rest – learning that he is gentle and meek in heart, and we will find rest for our souls - mind, will and emotions – doesn't say spirit – he is referring to the bits of us that have to cope with life in this world, and Zugos is the secret to that!!!



We Are NEVER Alone Ps 37

- The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.
24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, **Because the LORD is the One [f]who holds his hand.**
- So, we are actually yoked to/with Jesus, and he with us, at ALL times
- Which means we can fail and fall and REST at the same time



Living the Zugos Life!!

- The devil is a liar and the father of lies, and he wants to distract you from this important truth:
- You and Jesus are literally **INSEPARABLE**
- And even when you lose focus on Him, he is still focused on you, still YOKED with you
- And even at your worst, he is still gentle and meek, and he is training you to trust and rest in HIM, with his help it is easy and light



Take a Lie Inventory

- What is the number one, most prevalent, most typical lie the enemy pushes at to try to kill, steal and destroy your faith?
- Now, ask yourself this question: Even if that lie was true, and it isn't, how much power does it really have over someone who is eternally YOKED together with Jesus, who is coaching, guiding, empowering, loving, and literally holding you up all day, everyday, in everything, even when you have failed and feel weak and helpless?



Living the Zugos Life

- So simple – Jesus says “Come to Me” and I WILL give you REST
- He earnestly desires to be yoked together with you
- If you are tired of believing the lies and carrying that load all alone, all he asks is that you say “Yes Lord, Here I am. I want to live the Zugos Life with YOU.



Good News, YOU ARE

- deeply loved by God, *Ephesians 3: 16-19*
- fully accepted by God *Colossians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:19, 21*
- completely and permanently forgiven by God, *John 1:29; John 3:16-18; John 19:30*
- lavishly blessed by God, *Ephesians 1:3-8*
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY *Zephaniah 3:17, Nehemiah 8:10, Hebrews 12:2*