

Wall of Prayer



April 23, 2016

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior,

I love teaching 3-year-olds in Sunday School. On Palm Sunday our story was of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey to shouts of praise from the crowd; shouts that drowned out the clip, clop of the obedient, not-yet-broken colt as he walked on the palm branches and cloaks of the masses, never skittish, stumbling or wavering. Like the wind and the waves, this young wild beast obeyed the Master of the universe. Rather than entering the gates of Zion on a royal steed, which would have seemed appropriate for the King of kings and Lord of lords, it was determined in the heavens that He would enter on a beast of burden, a lowly animal of service. For, Jesus came to serve not to be served and to carry our burdens. In submission to the Father's plan, Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross. "Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows," we're told in Isaiah 53. "Yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted. But He was pierced for *our* transgressions, He was crushed for *our* iniquities, the punishment that brought *us* peace was upon Him, and by His wounds *we* are healed" (emphasis, mine). God's chosen people looked for a military leader who would overthrow the Roman rule and set up a new kingdom where many, even his disciples, hoped to get key positions of authority. But Jesus had come to seek and to save the lost and to carry their burdens. He came to right the wrongs through love and forgiveness and ultimately through the sacrifice of His own body.

In Matthew 11, Jesus praises His Father, the Lord of heaven and earth for "revealing these things," not to the wise and learned, "but to little children"-the lowly and humble. He then says in verses 28 and 29, "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 shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

I can only imagine how involved you are representing our Lord in the world as well as serving in your local body of believers. Schedules can get full with unending responsibilities. Jesus, more than anyone, knew that. His unwavering dependence on the Father for direction and on the Holy Spirit for strength, got Him through His long days of serving others and through the ultimate work He was sent to do on the cross. So, He says, "COME TO ME all who are weary." Just come, as you are; come. Don't wait, just come; come now. He promises refreshment from the weariness that comes from diligent and continuous serving. He doesn't promise to take us out of our service but invites us to be yoked to Him as we serve. As we learn gentleness and humility from Him, for that's what it takes to engage in the work He has for us, we'll find rest for our souls. Rest from the weariness of serving in our own strength. Can you imagine that He would even consider it possible for us, frail as children, to be yoked with Him? But, Jesus describes His yoke as easy and light. When I studied those words more closely, this whole "yoked with the God of the Universe" made more sense. HE takes up the slack. The word "easy" used here is the Greek word *Chrestos* which means "to furnish what is needed". HE furnishes the strength that is needed for the task. And the word "light" used here is a Greek word akin to the word *elauno* to push as the wind or oars push a boat; to carry or drive. The power of His Spirit carries us along. No, He doesn't take us out of the service He has called us to do, but He is right beside us furnishing the power needed, His Spirit carrying us along. I'm praying for your refreshment as you struggle in your ministry in the work place and in the church. Maybe you're working to reconcile a relationship. Maybe praying for your prayer partner and for your student is a struggle or a burden. The Psalmist writes, "Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens." (68:16) He will carry the weight as we serve. Bless you for continuing to struggle in prayer for these teens. Prayer is often one of the first things we throw off as the weight becomes too much to bear. Listen and obey when He whispers, "Come to me...learn from Me...for I'm gentle and humble and you'll find refreshment...!" Press on! Never give up!

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan Admire

"Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee." 2 Chr. 14:11