



July 21, 2008

Thought For the Day

***"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

There is a belief by some that Antonio Stradivari, the maker of the famous violins, could take a piece of wood in his hands and, just by holding it, tell if it would make a good violin. He, it is said, had some mystical and mysterious ability to know the wood and to know of what it was capable. It was as though he could sense how the wood would react to the draw of the bowstring.

I can imagine that Jesus, the creator of all things, could do the same with a piece of wood to even a greater extent. If I make that assumption, I can imagine Jesus working in his father's carpenter shop, having people bring to him their oxen so he could make a yoke for them and him, taking just the right piece of wood, making a yoke that would perfectly fit the animals before him. His would be yokes that fit the particular animals perfectly so that the animal's burden would be light and its work easy or at least easier. I can imagine that he had a reputation for making yokes that were easy.

When we are weary and burdened, Jesus invites us to take his yoke upon us so that we can find rest for our souls. We will find rest for a number of reasons. When we take his yoke we find that it is easy, in other words it is "well-fitting." It is a yoke that is made to fit exactly our lives and hearts. His yoke will not rub us nor cause us to develop sore spirits. And best of all, his yoke is a yoke designed to be worn by two – and our yoke-partner is none other than Christ himself. And when he who invites us to cast all our cares upon Him becomes a yoke-partner with us, we find our load considerably lighter.

Isn't it amazing that our Christ is one just one whom we burden with our concerns, but he is one who actually solicits our burden and agrees to carry them with us. Accept Christ's invitation and rest for your soul.

*I come to you, O Lord, and cast my cares for this day upon you. Help me to walk with easier steps knowing that you are carrying my load with me.*

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