

SELAH

Matthew 11:25-30

Come to Me all who are weary and 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.

-- Matthew 11:28-30

“How do we find and live into a peaceful center from which we then can act as steady peacemakers in a troubled world for a troubled time?”

“Selah” in the Psalms and Habakkuk

A mysterious term

Pause, musical interlude, meditate, amen

Pause: a break in the running to catch your breath, focus being present

The context of Matthew 11

John in prison, criticism from leaders, unrepentant cities

2020 at Highland has been a series of stresses like waves on a beach

In the middle of this swirl of tension Jesus offers rest

Rest comes through revelation: verses 25-27

Following is resting on what’s carrying me: 28-30

Revelation

The stress of having to figure something out

What you find in fact is what finds you

John the Baptist’s questions (no greater than John: verse 11)

Christianity is rooted in revelation

From big to little: we can trust our Father to reveal to us what we need to know

While this posture still requires work, the burden of “solution” is lifted

Can this result in paralysis?

Enough for the next small step, and the miner’s hat-lamp

Following

Running behind, afraid of losing sight of the leader

Being carried by the leader

The symbol of the yoke

Servitude to oppressive powers or illicit alliances

Jesus co-opts the symbol as embodying a subjection that eases a burden
The suggestion would be that He is carrying the heavier portion
The picture of my being carried in His wake
Drafting behind a truck
Water skiing: following as being carried (or pulled) along

A Jesus-first posture is a sustained restful posture even in times of turbulence
We trust intimate revelation to help show us the way
Our following is a form of being carried
Jesus brings us into places where we are to be His hands and feet
We respond out of rest, as opposed to resting out of exhaustion
The Jewish Sabbath always began with rest