

When You Are Afflicted And Burdened By Taskmasters

Ex. 1:8-11 (ESV)

8 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

9 And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us.

10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

11 Therefore they set TASKMASTERS OVER THEM TO AFFLICT THEM WITH HEAVY BURDENS. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

Mt. 13:22 (ESV) - As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Heb. 12:1-2 (ESV)

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Peter 5:7 (ESV) – Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7 (JB Phillips) - You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern.

I. Escaping from the taskmaster you invited into your life...

1 Corinthians 10:23 (ESV) - "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.

"All things are lawful" = "I can do what I want"

1 Corinthians 10:23 (Amp) - All things are legitimate [permissible--and we are free to do anything we please], but not all things are helpful (expedient, profitable, and wholesome). All things are legitimate, but not all things are constructive [to character] and edifying [to spiritual life].

Edify (oikodomeo) = to be a house builder, construct or build up

1 Peter 2:5 (ESV) - you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 15:16-20 (NKJV)

16 So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding?

17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated?

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

Vs. 17 - Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated?

Vs. 17 (ESV) - Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?

If you want to break the power of a taskmaster you invited into your life you have to admit YOU INVITED HIM!

A) Admit and Repent of and forsake your sin – Don't keep dabbling in it!

B) Build a prayer life that consists of just more than just asking God for stuff!

C) Consecrate yourself and get serious about studying God's Word so that you know what His will and promises are for you!

Avoid and if necessary, resist...

1) Whatever weakens your reasoning

2) Whatever impairs the tenderness of your conscience

3) Whatever obscures your vision of God

4) Whatever takes away the appreciation of spiritual things

5) Whatever increases the authority of your body or soul over your spirit

II. Escaping from the taskmaster sent by satan...

1 Samuel 30:1-7

1 David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, 2 and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.

3 When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.

5 David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God.

7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him,

Luke 18:1 (ESV) - And he told them a parable to the effect that THEY OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY AND NOT LOSE HEART.

It's time to ALWAYS PRAY AND NOT LOSE HEART!

Ephesians 3:20... the Lord is able "to do EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, according to the power that works IN US"

Job 23:9 (ESV) - on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him.

Don't lose heart!

Don't give up on God's promises to you!

1 Peter 5:7 (JB Phillips) - You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern.

Mt. 11:28-30 (ESV)

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
29 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.
30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Psalms 18:33 (ESV)- He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights.