

Oct. 16, 2003 LHBC *Listening to the Call of G-d on Your Life* J. M. Terrett

"Come to Me, all of you who are weary (labouring) and heavy burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30)

I am always fascinated when I listen to believers talk about the will of G-d in their lives. Some people look at their spiritual life as an adventure and want to hear trumpets and see burning bushes, as if it were all about them. Other people are so afraid of not doing a good job and feel condemned and unworthy, like they have really blown it, as if it were also really all about them. Even those of us who do not go to these extremes think that G-d's will for our lives is really all about us and we make finding G-d's will for our lives such a complicated procedure.

You see, it is really not about us. It's about Him. This morning I would like to share with you from this passage in Matthew and talk about G-d's will in our lives as believers. And because this is a Baptist church, I have three points, but I am sorry that they do not all begin with the same letter - maybe next time.

I have been a believer for 32 years and yesterday I had the privilege of sharing my testimony at a Full Gospel Businessmen's breakfast in Lethbridge. It made me think about G-d's will for my life. Let me share two stories about how I came to the L-rd.

(1) "What have you done with my Son." (2) "Don't keep Him waiting, let Him come in."

First Point:                   Come

There are over six billion people on this planet and it seems everybody has an opinion about G-d. G-d does not just want to give you an opinion or even teach you how to refute people's funny ideas about Him. He wants you to know Him personally and also privately.

When I was asked to come down to Lethbridge, someone in the local chapter of the Full Gospel Businessmen heard some pretty nasty rumours about me and we had to have a little talk to reassure him that the rumours were not true. It was nothing immoral or even dishonest and I did not ask for any details and I still don't know who it was who was talking badly about me, and I am not sure I want to know.

I had a really good time sharing and now the local chapter knows me and the rumours don't matter. Is your faith based on rumours or stories about G-d, or have you let Him in, have you come to Him, personally, so that the rumours don't matter any more? G-d wants to know you personally, and He wants a private relationship with you, person to person. This private relationship is the most important feature of His will for your life. When He said "come", it was not to an idea, it was not to an organization. He wants to show you who He is and teach you who you are, for the rest of your life. Never let your walk with G-d become just a rumour.

Second Point:               Get yoked

Part of getting to know Him and having Him teach you about who you really are means getting yoked. This is a symbol – no physical yoke appeared out of the sky when I accepted the L-rd. That would be too easy.

Jesus' yoke is His Word – you know the Ten Commandments – a life based on faith and on obedience in the big and in the little details of our lives. From His position in our hearts and in our private relationship with G-d, our L-rd wants to walk with us and show us how to respond to the whatevers we all have to walk through on our way home to our Father's House.

Some of you may have hoped I would prophecy over you and tell you specifically what great deeds the L-rd wants you accomplish. It's not the great deeds that count. It's the way we walk in deed and in truth. It is easy to impress strangers – salesmen and politicians do this for a living, but once we get to know people, we often find that people are not who we thought they were – and they find out that we are not who they thought we were. This is why a lot of marriages get into trouble and break down.

If you walk with G-d and learn to obey in the small things then you are ready to things for G-d that really matter. Using your gifts is the easy part, walking with Him in the dark and in the light, in public and private is where the rubber needs to meet the road.

Jeremiah 9:23, 24 and Micah 6:8

Going to the ends of the earth is not the point. Practicing righteousness, justice and mercy is what it is all about. Once we learn to handle the yoke – or let the yoke handle us, we are ready for the next stage.

Third Point                      Get Burdened

G-d has given each of us specific things to do, but always like an adventure novel or a great saga like King Arthur or L-rd of the Rings. That would be too easy. He wants us to worry about the things that He worries about. He wants us to be burdened about the things He is burdened about, and it is not about us. What is He burdened about?

First of all you. Second of all how you live and respond to the things He brings into you life – including all the times your fall flat on your face and sit around sucking your thumb. Moses ran away from Egypt for forty years. Elijah hid in a cave. Jonah went on the cruise of a lifetime and had a whale of a time. Peter cut this guys ear off and ran for his life then he snuck into a trial and denied the L-rd three times.

G-d knows how many times we are going to fail. G-d knows how bad we feel and He does not want us to live under this massive burden of depression and discouragement. He wants us to live in that private relationship with Him and let Him show us how to deal with this big bad world we live in, whether we are six years old or six hundred years old.

Conclusion: Once you have learned to walk with Him in the daily, then you will discover that it is this walk that is His will for you life and if you get anything else done, it will be Him doing it through your walk with Him.