

Reflection 5th July Matthew 11. 25-30

It is the end of today's gospel passage which held my special attention as I meditated on it.

"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest".

That spoke to me in these weeks after John's [Jenny's husband] death (on the morning of 30th May and his funeral on 25th of June) and since is overwhelming. It is said that 'grief is the price you pay for love'. I have certainly been experiencing that, and it is overwhelming. Then there is the burden of all the arrangements, and the burden of all the paperwork following a death. But in Jesus there is indeed rest for our souls and his yoke is easy and his burden is light. Not like the yoke of all the rules and regulations of the Jewish law, moral law, ritual law. Jesus's yoke is the burden of love for all those around us as they offer comfort, and love to a broken world in its suffering.

Jesus was speaking to the ordinary people who listened to him and welcomed him. By comparison with the religious leaders, who were wise and learned, we too are like little children. Did you ever learn these words in a hymn?

*Still to the lowly soul
he does himself impart
and for his dwelling and his throne
he chooses the pure in heart.*

Jesus declares that he has been appointed by God as the revealer of God's law. He invites all are oppressed to believe in him, to learn his law of love and to enter the kingdom. He tells us that his law is not difficult, unlike the law of the pharisees and the scribes. It is easy to learn – it is the law of love.

This passage is an incredible revelation and a blessing. The Father delights in the relationship of Father and Son as Jesus shows us what God is like.

As we meditate on such passages as these, being still in his presence, we can feel his presence with us. Amen

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