

E-Series Burden Blinds



"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** 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. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." –**Matthew 11:28-30**

For the entire season of Lent, we will be talking about things in our lives that can create an eclipse, things that will prevent us from reflecting the light of God's love to the world around us. This past Sunday we started with Burden Blinds.

Life happens. To be sure burdens are part of the territory. Pain, grief, sorrow, heartache, betrayal...they get heavier and heavier. But the problem with burdens is not just that they *weigh* us down. Over time they also *dim* us down. Burdens sap our joy and passion. They operate like blinds, blocking the possibility that we will shine with God's light.

The good news is that we don't have to carry our burdens alone. We have brothers and sisters in the faith whose duty it is to walk alongside us and share our burdens. In Galatians 6:2 Paul writes, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." We are the Body of Christ. We care and pray for each other. That's what we do.

But, it's not just other Christians who ensure that we don't carry our burdens alone. Jesus himself has promised to never leave us or forsake us. While Jesus never promised to take away all our problems, he has promised that he will never abandon us to them. In the passage above from Matthew, Jesus says to "take my yoke upon you..." Yoke probably has a double meaning in this passage. One of them, however, is the kind of yoke used by farmers to join together pairs of oxen or mules. When they are yoked together, one animal doesn't have to pull the load alone.

If Jesus is sharing the yoke of our burdens, then we're in good hands.

Several years ago, I was at Salkehatchie Camp in Johnston, SC. My team was working on a woman's house and her grandchildren were there. One of them, a little boy about five years old, wanted to help very badly. So, I let him "help" me move a dresser. One of our team members got one end, and this little boy and I got the other. It was full of clothes, so it was heavy. When we picked it up, the five year old was grunting and straining and really working hard. In spite of all his effort, if he had let go of the dresser, the truth is I probably wouldn't have known it. But, if I had let go, he would have been crushed under the weight.

The same thing is often true when Jesus is carrying our burdens with us. Even with all of our straining, if we were to let go, Jesus might not even realize it. But if he lets go...

Trying to Open My Burden Blinds,
Pastor Michael



Time to Shine in 2009!