

THE THINGS DISCIPLES DO

Lesson 8

Wednesday,
February 25

What do disciples do? [Matthew 11:2-6](#) introduces an important lesson from a negative point-of-view:

disciples aren't _____ by Jesus.

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the _____ who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and _____: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by _____."

Instead of being "offended by" Jesus, **disciples take Jesus' _____ upon themselves.**

Listen to what Jesus said in [Matthew 11:28-30](#):

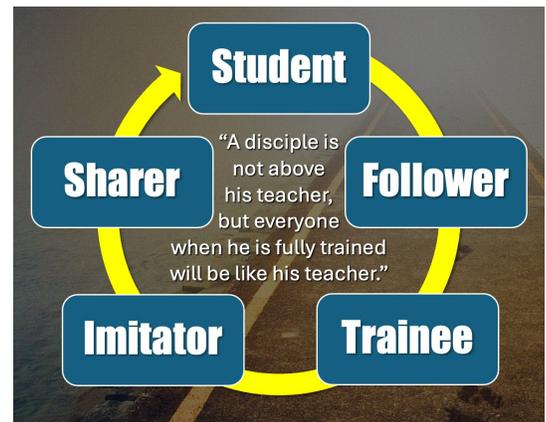
"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke _____ you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your _____. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Finally, in [Matthew 13:3-9](#), Jesus told a parable that we need to think seriously about.

"A _____ went out to sow. And as he sowed, some _____ fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on _____ soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

It's clear Jesus is talking about more than literal soil and seeds, especially when we listen to the way he explains the parable in [Matthew 13:18-23](#). He's talking about our hearts and the way God's word lands on them. So if I want to be a disciple? What do I need to understand?

Disciples tend the _____ of their _____. What does that mean? Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ **Disciples aren't offended by Jesus.** We heard at the beginning of [Matthew 11](#) that John was in prison. According to [Mark 6:17-18](#), why was John in prison? Why do you think John sent word by his disciples to ask Jesus what he did in [Matthew 11:3](#)?

- ▶ In your own words, what was Jesus communicating in [Matthew 11:6](#)?

- ▶ Do people still get "offended" by Jesus today? What about Jesus, his teachings, or his expectations continues to offend some people? And why must disciples not be offended by him?

- ▶ **Disciples take Jesus' yoke upon themselves.** What is a "yoke," and why do you think Jesus used that word picture in [Matthew 11:28-30](#)?

- ▶ In your own words, what does it mean or look like for a disciple in the 21st century to "take" Jesus' "yoke upon" themselves? Can I be a disciple and *not* take that yoke upon myself?

- ▶ **Disciples tend the soil of their hearts.** Why does that matter? As you look back over Jesus' parable in [Matthew 13:3-9](#), what do we need to understand about the seed that...
 - Fell along the path ([13:4](#); [18-19](#))?

 - Fell on rocky ground ([13:5-6](#); [20-21](#))?

 - Fell among thorns ([13:7](#); [22](#))?

 - Fell on good soil ([13:8](#); [23](#))?

- ▶ In your own words, what does it mean for a disciple of Jesus to "tend the soil" of their own heart? Why is that an incredibly important thing to do?