



Journey to Generosity

The Way of Jesus

Matthew 9:35-10:23

ACCEPT THE YOKE OF JESUS

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

According to many of the intelligent and wise in the world, a major life purpose is to accumulate money and other resources as a hedge against insecurity, and to use time and talent for one’s own pleasure. While not denying the need for long-term security (not only for oneself but for all in the community), and while rejoicing in the gifts of life, the steward recognizes that one of the most important acts in life is the deeply symbolic act of placing something in the offering plate. That is a commitment to the welfare of all.

The invitation to accept a new yoke — the yoke of Jesus — is a bidding to reject the old ways of the old realm that were life denying and to instead embrace ways that are life giving. As it pertains to stewardship, the old age is exhausting, and ill-fitting. The more we have, the more we want. And seldom do we have enough. By contrast, life in the community that is centered on Jesus is a journey to a world that creates positive, life-affirming, meaning-bestowing energy that is easy and a good fit for those who will try it as a discipline for ordering their existence.

Investing time, talent, money, and other resources in the values and practices of the Realm both helps to enact qualities of the Realm in the present and thereby helps keep alive for future generations the possibility that things can be different — in a good way — in comparison to the way they are now.