

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

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bless you!*

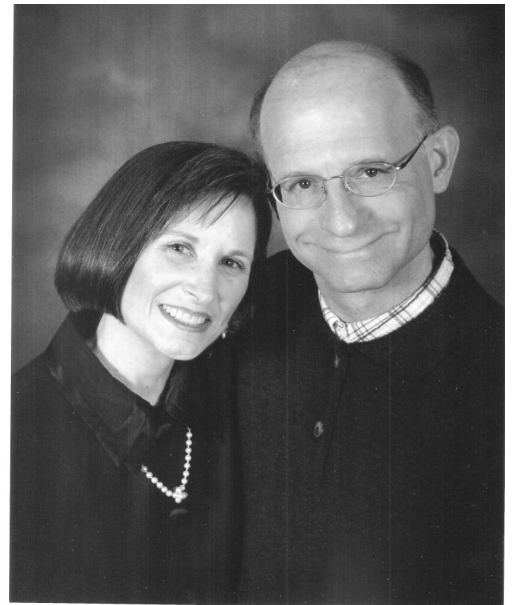
Tom & Debbie

Pairs' Skating, or Walking the Dog?

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. Matt 11: 28-30

Jesus was not speaking to just the people within hearing distance after John the Baptist's disciples asked Him if He was, in fact, the coming Messiah, and He was not just inviting unsaved people to come to Him for Salvation. See His sentence just previous to 'Come unto Me.' He said, 'Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one **to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**' Are you one to whom the Lord Jesus Christ has chosen to reveal the Father? If so, then He was speaking to you, and me! 'Come unto Me'... He was not speaking of a onetime only action when He said, 'Come unto Me... Take my yoke upon you... learn from Me... you will find rest for your souls'. He knew that even we, God's children, are ever wearying ourselves and becoming heavy laden with the cares and concerns of this world, that we are constantly needing to retake His yoke upon ourselves... to choose to lay our burdens back onto Him... to come back to learning from Him and His Word... He is ever reminding us that He will give us rest for our souls, that His yoke **is easy** and His burden **is light**.

Even as His children, we forget who we are and Who He is in us. We lay our Bibles down and forget what we just read, what He wants us to know. We forget that we were



*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.*

*Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

freed from sin, even at the Cross, and we go back and once again begin doing something we used to do, of which we are now ashamed. We forget how He has always cared for us and supplied our needs and again begin to worry about tomorrow and what we will eat or how we will pay our mortgage. We forget that He loves our children even more than we ever could as we fret and agonize over that prodigal son or daughter.

He is telling us every day, *'Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.'*

Do you know what a 'yoke' is? The most universally recognized yoke is that five foot long bow-shaped wooden beam which lays across the shoulders of two oxen which is then fastened with two u-shaped rods under and around their necks to hold them steadfast

together as they equally share the



burden of pulling forward that to which they are attached, be it a cart, a wagon, a sled or whatever. The oxen are bound together; they move and pull together as one. There are other types of yoke as well. There is the single yoke which yokes the ox or horse to the cart. Anything which fastens one thing to another is in essence a yoke. We can be yoked to a job. We can be yoked to sin; we can be yoked to our past. God tells us, as believers, to not be yoked with unbelievers, as in marriage or in other important partnerships.

A dog's collar is a yoke; the dog is yoked to the leash and ultimately to your hand. Is that the idea Jesus is conveying here? Perhaps you've trained your dog to heal, to walk beside you calmly

and respectfully... ours is not so trained. We've all seen someone struggling to 'walk' a large, strong, obstinate dog with a mind of its



own... the 'master' leans back, pulling with all his might so as not to be pulled off his feet by 'well trained' Fido. We pull against God's will for our lives... we struggle and strain and run off to investigate some strange sight or smell or experience, thinking we are leaving Jesus behind, holding an empty leash... but that is not how He operates in our lives.

He will allow us to 'run off' if we so choose. We can, if we are so foolish, run as far as possible, like the 'Prodigal Son', even to the point of finding ourselves bankrupt in every way, living with the pigs, wishing we could eat what they eat, but ultimately, we cannot, because we are, after all, still children of God and He will always, just like with the Prodigal Son, wake us up... bring us to our senses, and draw us back to Himself. He will, once again, whisper to us, *'Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light'*... and He invites us... 'Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.' Heb 4:16

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So, if not the master holding the leash of his charge, what is the picture the Lord Jesus Christ wants us to see as He speaks of our being yoked together with Him during this time we spend until He returns for us? I think the idea He is giving is that of two moving together as one. Paul tells us that the marriage relationship is a mysterious picture of our relationship with Jesus Christ as we are 'in Him', 'one with Him.' As a married couple live and move in the same direction, not at cross purposes, if they are in fellowship with God and with each other, as they are 'one with each other,' so too, that is God's desire for us as we 'walk in Him', as we 'set our minds on the things above, not on the things of the earth.'

The best picture I can think of is that of a pair of ice skaters who have practiced together, hour upon hour, so that they move together as one. They hold one another's hands as they move in and out, up and down, over and across, each movement of their feet, each tilt of their heads, always moving as one. But even that is not quite what



Jesus is calling us to because He says 'take My yoke on you.' A better picture would be as if we were skating together with our partner, but our partner is 12 feet tall and strong enough to lift a truck... He provides the power to move forward, he instigates each turn and spin; He lifts us as if we were weightless... He stops us 'on a dime', we simply hold tightly to His hand and allow Him to lead wherever He chooses, trusting Him to lead us into His good and perfect will for our lives as we enjoy the scenery and the wind in our faces.

Unfortunately, that isn't how it goes, most of the time, is it! We take our eyes off our 'partner' to look down to see a rut or hole in the ice or a large rock in front of

us... we let go of His arm, stop, sit on the ice and decry our miserable state and how terrible and dangerous skating on ice can be while we allow ourselves to become paralyzed with fear and unbelief. He doesn't keep skating, leaving us behind and out of sight, but He stops with us, standing over us to protect us while whispering, 'Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light'... 'Come unto Me'

Psalm 32 says, 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not

come near you.



This was an encore from a few years back.

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