

May 27, 2016

Finding Rest

Milepost 27

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.
-Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 11:29-30)

Four of our grandchildren show steers at the 4-H Fair each year. They'll be the first to tell you how unique each steer is, both in physical shape and personality.

A legend has Jesus being known for his custom fit yokes during his carpentry days. Perhaps Jesus was saying, "Remember those custom fitting yokes I used to make? Well, I have a unique, custom fit yoke for each one of my followers." Jesus illustrated this in making it clear to Peter and John that their calls would be unique (John 21:20-23). Paul corroborates Jesus' teaching in his spiritual gifts instruction (1 Cor. 12).

In my experience, lack of clarity of call is a significant factor in fatigue among individual disciples *and* congregations. *My yoke is easy* means it fits well. Jesus has a unique call for each follower, and Jesus' Spirit has a unique call for each faith community. Like an ox with a custom fit yoke, Jesus' followers work tirelessly when the task is clearly related to our unique call. We tire quickly with "somebody has to do it" tasks.

While it is our individual responsibility to find clarity of call, we cannot do it on our own. *Diverse* small groups (like the Twelve), are the best venue for clarification of call, which includes one's passion, spiritual gift, and personal style. For some, our call is clear. For others, it is not. A faith community's call becomes clearer as many of its members find clarity of his/her individual call. Congregational unity increases as individuals find clarity of call.

Our calls are so unique, that others will look at us and say, "I could never do that." And we respond, "right back at you." We are the only one who can do, *and understand*, our unique call.

Looking ahead:

May 29: 9:30am Jonah 3 *World's Worst Sermon/God's Amazing Grace*

June 5: 9:30am Jonah 4 *Don't believe everything you think*

June 19: 11:00am Session #2 Transitional period proposal presented

July 10: 11:00am Session #3 TBD

Projected in town schedule: May 29-June 1; June 5-7; June 19-21

-Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor

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