

LOCKDOWN DAY 103 – 7 JULY 2020

Molweni amazing family and friends of False Bay Diocese

Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30

Hymn: *I heard the voice of Jesus say*

Yes, You are truly amazing by the amazing grace of God. As far as possible our members are keeping up with their pledge commitments to the church. Some add a grocery item to their shopping basket, to drop off at the church or rectory to feed the less fortunate. Some others add a note to their pledge offering to be used for this purpose. All are making sacrifices for which I am immensely grateful. We are so dependent on one another. Please pass on a message to any member of Chapter as to when you think we should reopen our churches for **in person** worship? I can confidently say that we will not be opening during July.

Jesus says to us *“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.”* Easy does not mean simple. It means good, useful, pleasant, kind. It is the **yoke** of Jesus that furnishes the soul with what is good, pleasant, kind and useful. We are invited to take on the yoke of service and like Jesus to serve each other. It is not a negative yoke. Jesus lifts the yoke with us. The yoke of each person is personal and cannot be shifted to someone else. We carry our individual yoke with Christ’s help. That is what makes the burden lighter. The yoke is carried in the power of the Spirit of God within us. We are made in the image and likeness of Christ and it is in this Christ likeness that we are restored and find that the yoke is easy, our burden light. We have heard the saying: *“Like father, like son.”* It brings us back to be Christlike, to be childlike. We then begin to flourish in our spiritual nature and yearn to serve others. We will experience peace, love, rest and strength in the presence of God.

We can lend a helping hand or say a compassionate prayer without even leaving our homes, for people to benefit from our kindness.

Jesus says to us again today: *“Come to Me”*: It is an **invitation** not an **imposition**. Jesus **calls** us to himself; he does not force us to come. If we accept this invitation we have everything to gain and nothing to lose; if we reject the invitation of Jesus we have everything to lose and nothing to gain. The choice is entirely ours.

“Come to me” says Jesus. Is Jesus our **first thought** or only **our afterthought**? Is Jesus our **first choice** or merely a **secondary choice**? Is Jesus our **first resort** or our **last resort**?

“All you who are weary and burdened.” Jesus excludes no one. His invitation is all embracing. Who among us does not at times feel weighed down with the burdens of life? Clergy or the people they serve, rich or poor, young or old, we all have burdens to bear.

“And I will give you rest.” What a strange reward! Jesus does not promise to take away our burdens or reduce the load but to give us rest. This is the “miracle” of personal prayer. Nothing may change. Everything may remain the same as it was before. But we emerge renewed, refreshed, reinvigorated, rested and ready to take on the burdens that challenge us. The burdens of life become light when we learn from Jesus how to carry them with love in our hearts.

Our redemption is dependent on us becoming childlike, becoming Christlike. The choice is ours to make that decision or not.

This is the 60th reflection that I have been blessed to share with you. Today please **reach out** to any person who is 60 years old.

In our prayers we remember all Covid-19 patients, those in recovery, those in hospitals, in self-isolation or quarantine. We pray for all who are caring for them. We pray for God’s love and strength to serve others. Dear Lord, so many are suffering loss, facing health challenges and grief. As we place their pain and heartache in your hands may they feel their burden becoming lighter. May the Lord stir us up to share our time, prayers and resources to help those hardest hit in this lockdown. We pray for ourselves, that in the midst of our trials and troubles, we may remember that the yoke of the Lord is light when we carry it with love. In faith we adapt to accept the rhythm of healing of Jesus. May God’s light perpetual shine on the souls of the blessed dead.
Amen

I am, Because we Are, Because God is.....Opening hearts to heal God’s world. *Care with no reason.*