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- Lenski
 - As regards the diligence — not slow!
 - As regards the spirit — seething!
 - As regards the Lord — slaving!

Yet you did not call
upon Me, O Jacob; But
you have been **weary**
of Me, O Israel!

Isaiah 43:22



- Isaiah 43:22-23 (ESV) 22 “Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! 23 You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense.
- CWSB: It indicates putting forth great effort and exertion to accomplish something
- Always another sacrifice, Sabbath, feast.... never ends: more to do.



- Micah 6:3 (ESV) 3 “O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!
- (CWSB Dictionary) H3811. לָאָהּ lā’āh: A verb meaning to be weary, to become weary; to be frustrated. It refers to becoming weary, impatient at doing something
- (CWSB Dictionary) In its causative stem, it takes on the sense of making someone tired, weary, trying their patience (Job 16:7; Isa. 7:13; Mic. 6:3), as Israel tried the Lord’s endurance with them.

But you say, 'What a
weariness this is,'
and you snort at it,
says Jehovah of Hosts.

Malachi 1:13



- Malachi 1:13 (ESV): But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the Lord of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the Lord.
- Weariness
 - what a trouble!
 - hardship
 - (CWSB Dictionary) The state of being bored at something or despising it, thinking it a nuisance (Mal. 1:13).

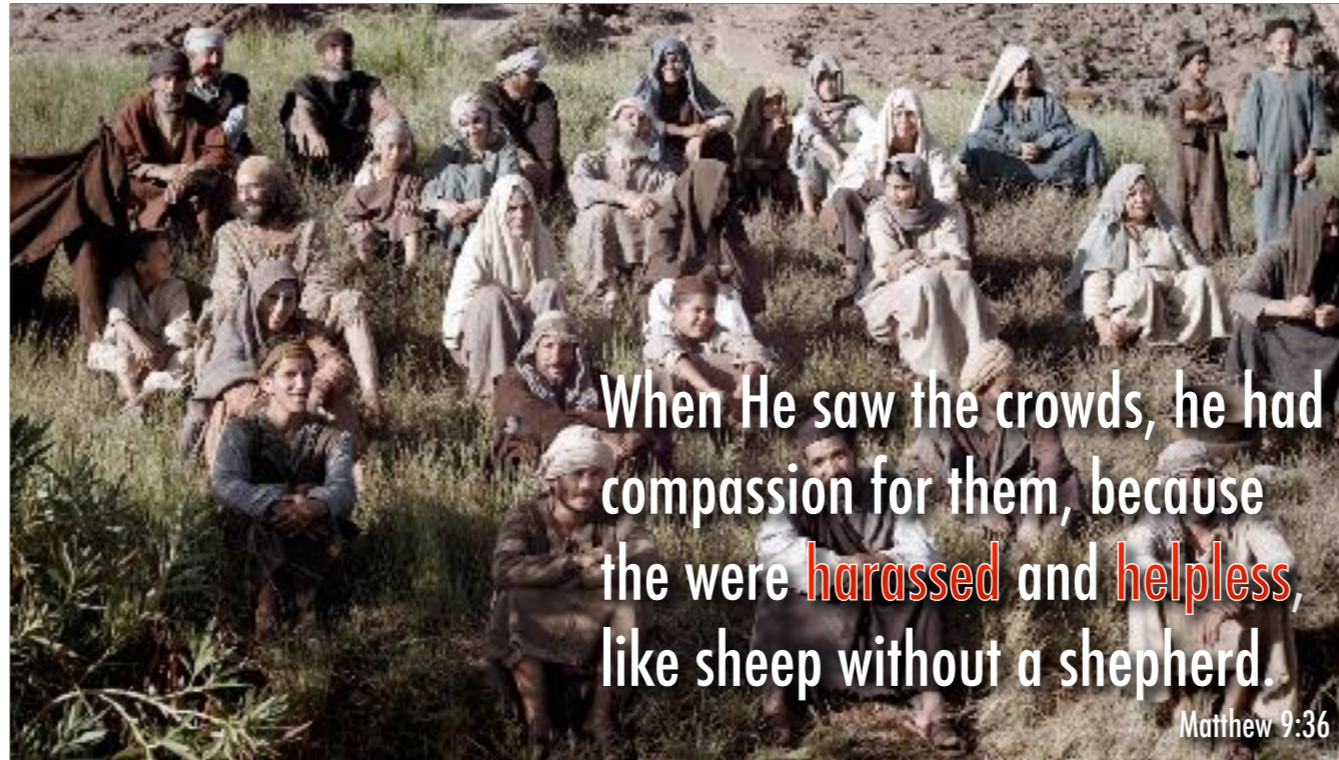
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Malachi 1:13

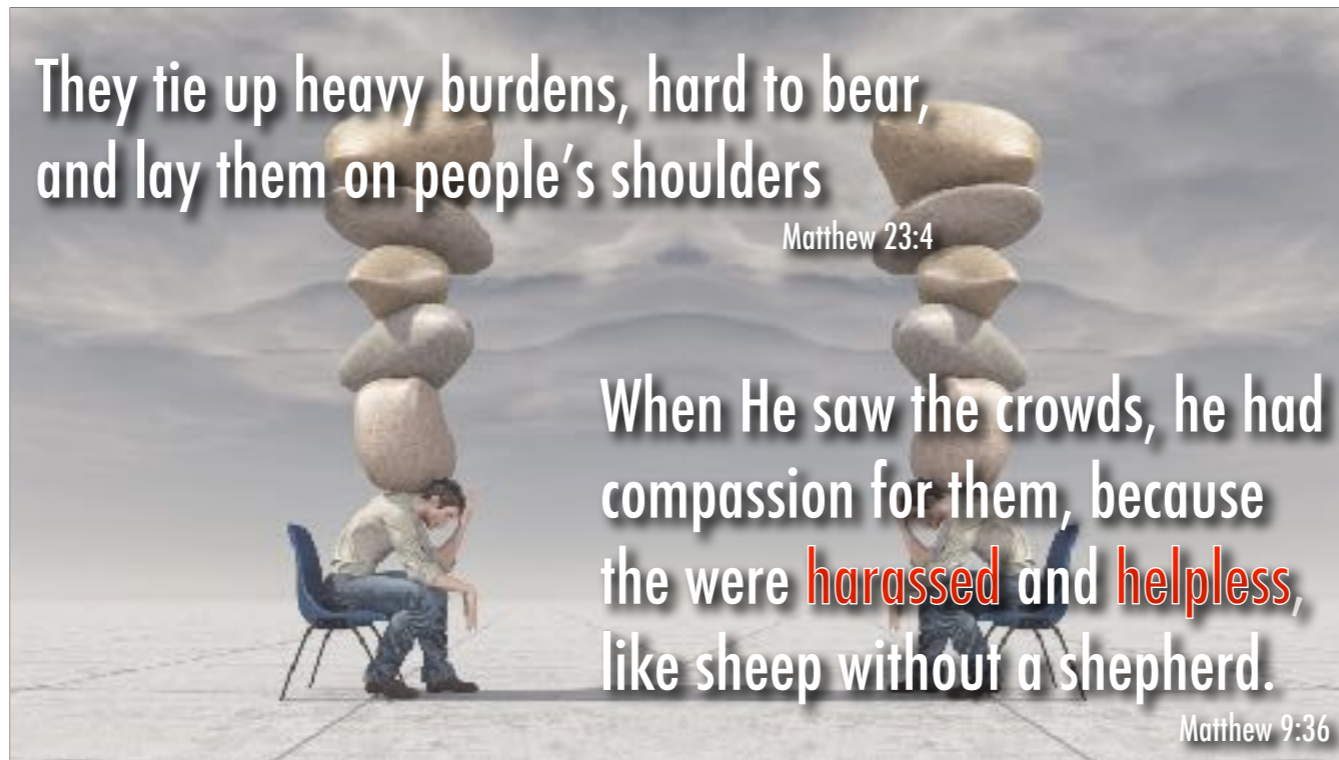


- Snort

- (CWSB Dictionary) It is used of either blowing on an offering or sniffing it in disdain (Mal. 1:13)
- (TWOT) A more dramatic sense is found in Mal 1:13, where "sniffing" at the name of God signifies a profaning of the name by offering invalid, unacceptable sacrifices.



- Matthew 9:36 (ESV) 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- What did Jesus see on their faces?



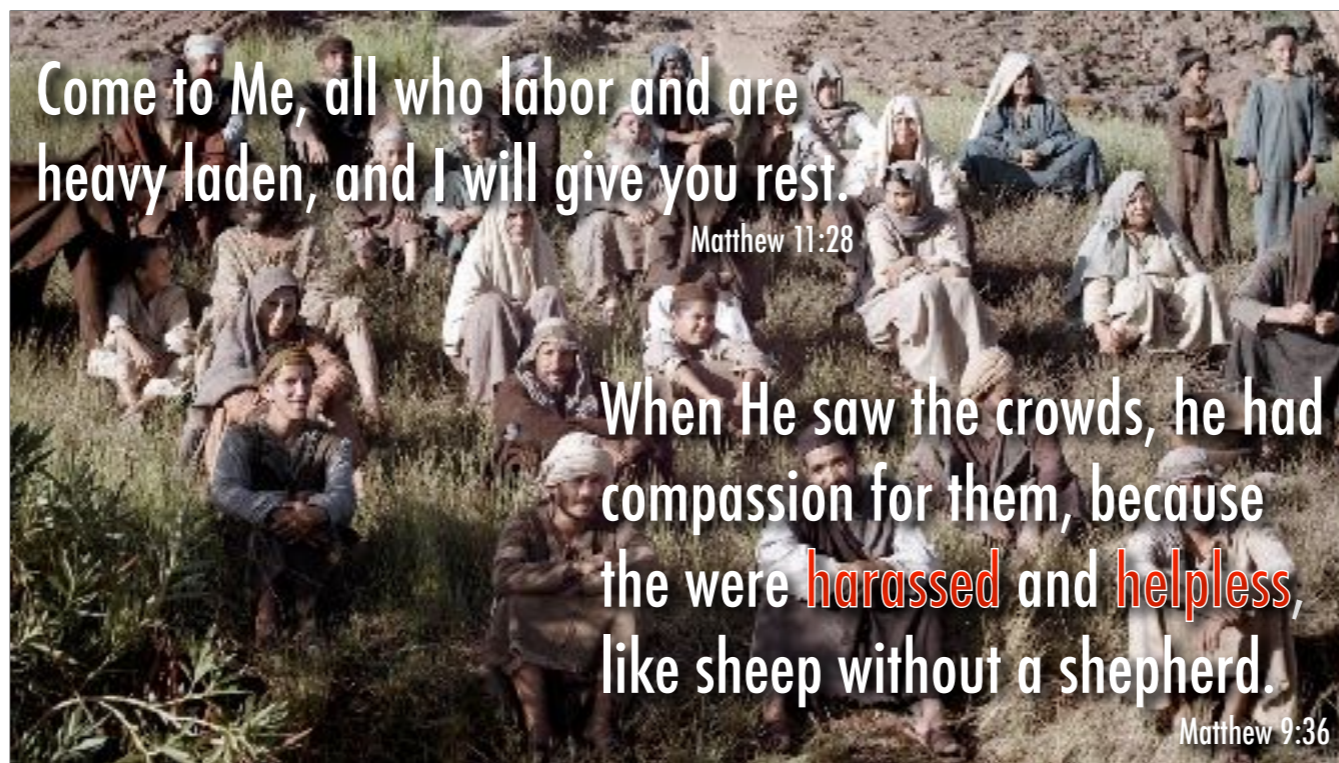
They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,
and lay them on people's shoulders

Matthew 23:4

When He saw the crowds, he had
compassion for them, because
they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

- Matthew 23:4 (ESV) 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.
- Do this, don't do that. Complicated, hard to understand. Impossible to be righteous.



- Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 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. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



- Israel, surely, is not the only one's who've tired of worship and obedience and rules
- Nor were the Jews at the time of Jesus the only one's who found that "religion" made their lives more difficult.
 - Have our preachers and teachers helped us find peace, comfort and joy in this life? Or ever more burdens, guilt, duty?
- It's more than just about "having to go to church"
- It's how we think of God and God's law and our relationship with God.



- How does it affect my daily life? Do I weary of the constant need for obedience?
- Does it feel more like daily chore, keeping you from the fun others are having?
- Also, have we done this to our children?
 - Parents and grandparents that show by their actions and attitudes that following after Jesus is an obligation, a burden.
 - “Have to” attitude



- We've made worship boring.
 - Not that worship should be entertaining...
- We've taken the meaning out of worship.
 - Reduced it to 5 elements that must be done.
 - Following our check list.... = worship?



- The world appeals to our sense of moderation and balance.
 - Too much religion/Christianity is just not a good thing.
 - Religion is bad (opiate of the people)
 - Developed by men, promulgated by men for their own benefit
 - Organized religion misses the point.
 - We shrug it off, but maybe they have a point.
- There is a real struggle for each of us to keep our relationship with God active and meaningful each day.



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- Zeal / Diligence
- Meaning
 - Thayer: earnestness in accomplishing, promoting, or striving after anything
 - TDNT: It then means 'zeal' or 'commitment'
 - JFB: denoting the energy of action.
- Seem to be two aspects
 - Mental: determination
 - Action: effort that refuses to stop
- Exercise: "hit the wall"



- 2 Peter 1:5-11 (ESV) 5 For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are **increasing**, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be **all the more diligent** to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an **entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**.

Do not be **slothful** in **zeal**



- Slothful
 - Thayer: sluggish, slothful, backward
 - TDNT: those who are slow to act through hesitation, anxiety, negligence, or sloth
- Why do I sometimes hold back, hesitate, or go slow in diligence?
 - Distracted by Life
 - Negligent, Ignorant
 - Procrastinating (fear)
 - Complacent (I'm doing okay)

Do not be **slothful** in **zeal**



- Paul warns us that each of us faces the danger of backing off from being as dedicated and eager in God's service as we should be.
 - Trap of falling back into the habits of the world
 - Thinking the past was better (Hebrews)
 - Just giving up
- How do I get busy again?
 - Paul doesn't directly answer
 - Peter does ... look forward to your salvation and get back to work



- Spirit
 - Is this the Holy Spirit?
 - Or my spirit?
 - I think this, the focus of the passage is on transformed individual.
 - Fits the context better.
- It's vital that we remember that are not merely physical, but also spiritual
- ECC: body returns to ground, spirit returns to God
 - Lewis: I am a soul, I have a body.
 - At times it's very easy to become overly focused on our body: beauty, physique, food, health



- 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV) 7 Rather train yourself for godliness; 8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.



- Galatians 5:16-25 (ESV) 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.



- 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.



- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.



- Fervent
 - to boil, seethe
 - TDNT: develop our energy as Christians
- Why are we less than fervent in our spiritual lives?
 - routine
 - busyness
 - tired
 - confused
 - ritual
- How do I restore my fervency?
 - Paul, to Timothy, remember the promise of godliness: for this life and life to come.
 - Do the things that help your spirit to grow.... knowledge, study, prayer.
 - Get in the habit of being spiritual.



- The Lord
- Who do I really serve in my life?
 - My self: pleasure for the moment; me first
 - See the results of this way of thinking in the world around us: greed, gossip, evil
 - Jesus: the one who died for me and saved me, and wants me to be reconciled with him?



- Serve
 - Previous lessons we spent a lot of time on this: servant of sin or servant of God?
 - What could we do besides “serve” the Lord?
 - Treat the Lord as a genie? (What ever I wish for, he gives me)
 - Treat the Lord as a counselor? (If I follow these directions I’ll have a better life)
 - Treat the Lord as a
- How do I serve the Lord?
 - Humility
 - Obedience
 - Fully, Eagerly



- No lazy, procrastinating saints.
 - Stop making excuses
- Get excited about being a disciple.
- Serve

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Be Transformed

#14

Compiled and Presented by:
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The Zealous Spirit of God's Servant

Romans 12:11

Synopsis: The struggle to keep our relationship with God active and meaningful each day.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”