

## CARRY ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

John 15:9-14

INTRODUCTION: Our Lord Jesus was a very busy man on a mission of great importance yet somehow He always found time to help people with their burdens: Luke 9:37-43. Have you ever felt like our Lord Jesus here? Are you sick and tired of helping people who will not walk by faith? People who mess themselves up with all types of evil and when the bottom drops out they come to you for help?

### I. OUR LORD'S EXAMPLE!

In hundreds of examples in the gospels we see our Lord constantly reaching out to help those who have dug their own pit: 2 Corinthians 5:21. Now our Lord asks us to love others just as He loved us: John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. We as Christ followers are called to show the love of Christ by carrying each other's burdens: Galatians 6:2; Galatians 6:5. In Galatians 6:2 the word for "burdens" is "Baros." It is used again in Matthew 20:12: no crushing burdens here just the normal doing of a job. Acts 15:28 shows us that many of the Law's requirements were not crushing just the normal outworking of the will of God. Revelation 2:24-25; 2 Corinthians 4:17: the word for "outweighs" here is "Baros." In Galatians 6:5 the word for "load" is not "Baros" but "phortion." "Phortion" is used again in Matthew 11:28-30. It is used again in Matthew 23:1-4 where the word "loads" is again "phortion."

### II. LIFTING BURDENS!

So the Bible simply says that you and I as disciples of Jesus Christ are to bear one another's burdens. Have you ever felt burdened to pray for others? Do you know that one of the best ways to get your burden lifted is by lifting someone else's burdens? Sometimes the best way to help bear another's burdens is to just let them know you care by being there for them; nothing said just your presence and heartfelt sympathy for their situation. Job 2:11-13; Proverbs 17:28. We need to learn to listen well. Sometimes we don't need all the answers; all we need to do is care! James 1:19. We need to learn to comfort others with the comfort we have been given from our God! 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. We need to learn to restore others gently: Galatians 6:1-2. We need to pray for others burdens with the burdened person: Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 12:15; John 11:32-36. At times it will cost us time or financially to help carry another's burden: James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-18. At times we need to take on another's burden as a care giver to give them a much needed break.

### III. TWO HINDERENCES TO BEARING BURDENS!

The first hindrance to bearing another's burden is time: "I don't have time to help you bear your burden: Luke 10:25-37. The second hindrance to bearing another's burden is the pride of the one who needs the help. "I can handle thins! I don't need any help!" Galatians 6:1-5. None of us were meant to go through this life alone. We are part of a body; we dare not become too proud to admit from time to time we need help. James 5:13-16. We all need a few good friends we can share our burdens with. Romans 14:7-8.