

Message Series: Upon His Shoulders

Message Title: Weak Shoulders

Key Scripture:

Matthew 11:28–30 NLT

28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Isaiah 9:4–6 NLT

4 For you will break the yoke of their slavery
and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.
You will break the oppressor's rod,
just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.
5 The boots of the warrior
and the uniforms bloodstained by war
will all be burned.
They will be fuel for the fire.
6 For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.

Message Summary

The government is Upon His Shoulders – but we need to think about what is on ours! Isaiah prophesies that the yoke, and heavy burden will be lifted from the shoulders of God's people. In Isaiah 22 God organises a cabinet re-shuffle, and replaces Sheba with Eliakim as the ruler of the king's household. Shebna appears to be in a position that God has not given him and is full of pride, and so God replaces him with a humble servant Eliakim, and says that he is worthy to have the responsibility on his shoulders. We need to humble ourselves, allow God to remove things from our shoulders that shouldn't be there and understand that if we do carry any position of responsibility, it is to be used to serve others, not build our own kingdom.

How does applying this message affect our:

Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people

How are we using any power or authority we do have to serve others? Are we conducting ourselves in our relationships in a way that brings God's kingdom, or builds up our own position. Are there areas where we are like Shebna in how we deal with others?

Discipleship – growing in Christ both in thought and deed

In Matthew 11 Jesus calls us to learn from Him, because He is gently and lowly in heart. How we can develop an attitude and practice of humility, if we did learn from Jesus to be humble, what might be different in our lives?

Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities

What responsibilities has God put on your shoulders? Are you finding His load easy and the burden light? If not, are we trying to put ourselves in a place that God hasn't put us?

Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers

In a stressful world, how can we share Jesus call to come to Him, and allow the responsibility to be on His shoulders. Who do you know, that might be open to respond to Jesus call to lay down some of the burdens they are carrying? How can you extend Jesus invitation to them this week?

Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis

Humility is a common thread throughout the scriptures in this message, is there something that you need to surrender to God as part of admitting that we have weak shoulders and ask Him to remove it from your shoulders!