

## Gospel Reflection

In this gospel we are confronted with two very different themes: wisdom and labor. The passage begins with Jesus giving praise to God for granting to “the little ones” wisdom that is beyond the reach of the “wise and the learned”. Here, the “wise and the learned” almost surely refers to the established religious scholars with whom Jesus was so often at odds during His mission. These figures are criticized in this passage, as elsewhere in the gospels, for the spiritual complacency and self-righteousness that kept them from accepting Christ’s message.

Then Jesus invites those who “labor and are burdened” to lay down their burdens and take up instead His lighter burden. It is important to note that Jesus is not offering an end to labor altogether. He offers, not an easy-chair, but a yoke. And yet, with this yoke he grants the rest we find when we lay down one burden and take up a lighter one.

Perhaps these two themes are not as different as they first appear. As both Scripture and experience teach us, wisdom itself is a kind of burden. Knowing the truth carries with it the necessity of adjusting one’s way of life to conform to the truth, and this can often be a very labor-intensive task.

When the burden consists of exacting adherence to a painstakingly detailed and legalistic code of conduct, as it was for the Pharisees, it is a burden that can seem insurmountably difficult. It is to this that Jesus offers an alternative. Christ’s teachings, even though sometimes very difficult to put into practice, are by comparison a much lighter burden because they stem from essential and universally comprehensible concepts, principles and needs, especially the human need to love and be loved. Christ’s wisdom is fundamentally accessible to us, and although this accessibility is necessarily accompanied by moral responsibility, it leaves open to us the possibility of holiness, in a way the legalism of the Pharisees never could.

Come unto me, all you who are bound up by trying to follow all the rules and regulations, Jesus is saying, and love one another instead. It’s a wise and far less burdensome choice!

*Daniel Ambord, Faith Formation*

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Matthew 11:25-30*

W C L N U N Y L N E A A L  
D L I U H O I E A X S K T  
F I T O K R D P Y B H I S  
L G T E N D X T S A O W W  
B H L Z I E S S N J I R G  
C T E H U E D D G A E N O  
X O O P R Z E R A B R R G  
Y L N N Y D K Q U M E K V  
T J E I O Y S A E B H E E  
F L S V H U M B L E T E I  
Q V E S O N X E P S A M I  
Z R D E N R A E L I F H N  
B L E P U K C L M R C C X

***Find these words from the Gospel passage.***

BURDEN	EASY	FATHER
HANDED OVER	HIDDEN	HUMBLE
LABOR	LEARNED	LIGHT
LITTLE ONES	MEEK	REST
SON	WISE	YOKE

## Disciple’s Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
7/6/2008*

*Matthew 11:25-30  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

[www.olaclaremont.org](http://www.olaclaremont.org)

## Call to Prayer

*We begin by calling upon God:*

**In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the  
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with  
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

**The Word of God:** *Matthew 11:25-30*

### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

At that time Jesus exclaimed: “**I give praise** to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to **little ones**. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Come to me, all **who labor and are burdened**, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke** upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.

***The Gospel of the Lord***



© 2007 J. S. Palach Company, Inc.

### **Gospel Glossary**

“**I give praise**”: This passage is nearly the same as *Luke 10:21-22*.

“**little ones**”: This phrase can also be translated as “the childlike.”

“**who labor and are burdened**”: In addition to its literal meaning, this probably also refers to the burden of the Pharisees’ interpretation of the Law (see this week’s Gospel reflection).

“**Take my yoke**”: The yoke of obedience to Jesus’ word. This passage recalls the Book of Sirach’s exhortation to take on the yoke of wisdom.

“The wise and the learned” likely refers to the Pharisees and Sadducees, who held nearly undisputed religious authority within Judaism during the time of Christ.



## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- In what ways do I see Jesus as “meek and humble of heart”?
- How and when am I “meek and humble of heart” for others?
- What has God revealed to me through “the little ones”?

## Closing Prayer

God, our Father,

In the rising of your Son, death gives birth to new life. The sufferings he endured restored hope to a fallen world. Let sin never ensnare us with empty promises of passing joy. Make us one with you always, so that our joy may be holy, and our love may give life.

We ask in Jesus’ name,

Amen

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**