

The Trailer

One of the fun recollections of my youth was going fishing with my father. Dad had purchased a heavy boat that we towed with the family car, which was less than ideal for the task. I was too young to drive on the street yet but I was given the job of connecting the trailer to the car so I got to drive the car about 50 feet. I can recall that the weight of the boat trailer was so great that the car would sag and almost groan beneath the weight as I lowered the trailer onto the car's hitch. I can recall several times getting the car stuck while we tried to pull the boat and trailer up a steep boat ramp. Once the car transmission burnt out when we tried to pull the boat up a slippery unimproved boat ramp.

The car mechanic that repaired the transmission told us that the boat was too heavy for our car in two ways. First the static weight on the front of the trailer was too great for our car, even when the car was standing still. Second he explained that the overall weight of the trailer was too great and to get the trailer moving and get it stopped was just too heavy a load for the passenger car's engine, transmission and braking systems. The choices were simple: We could extensively modify the car, buy a truck or get a lighter boat.

Sometimes the static load of life can seem too heavy for us. We wake up in the morning and before we even get out of bed, we feel a heavy load on our shoulders. Other times the weight seems OK until we start our day and then the load and weight of our complex lives begins to bear down on us. It is almost like we are asked daily to carry a heavy load that we were not designed to bear, just like our old car.

It seems that Jesus understood about the static weight and dynamic weight of living when he encourages us to "Take his yoke upon" us and to learn from Him. He has not come to add to the load on our shoulders but to make the load lighter because his yoke is easy and His burden is light.

MT 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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."

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