

"Live as examples of Christ Jesus"

Devotions for Deacons

Title: The Charge to the Deacon

Scripture: Matthew 11: 28-30

"Live as Examples of Jesus."

It is a short phrase, found near the end of the charge to the deacons. It almost seems easy to miss it. It follows quite an overwhelming list:

Inspire faithful stewardship.

Teach us to be merciful.

Prompt us...to worship God with offerings.

Minister to rich and poor alike.

Weigh the needs of causes and use the church's resources discerningly.

Be compassionate to the needy.

Respect their need for dignity.

Encourage [the needy] with words that create hope.

Encourage them with deeds that bring joy.

Be prophetic critics of waste, injustice, and selfishness in our society.

Be sensitive counselors to victims of those evils.

And there is more. Make sure that your lives are above reproach and that you live as examples of Jesus. There it is again, that little phrase. Really, every part of the charge to deacons is about being *like* Jesus, and living as He lived. What an impossible standard that is. Can all those things really be expected of us?

Yet to every deacon Jesus says,

"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened"

When you do not know how to love someone. When you do not know how to help. When you have been out every night this week. When you just do not have the right words to say. When you cannot sleep because you are weighed down by sadness and suffering.

Jesus says, "I will give you rest."

Lay those burdens, that busyness, that sadness, those doubts on Jesus. He will help you carry them. He will help you carry them so that you may rest in His love, and find joy in your serving.

Jesus asks you to "Take my yoke upon you"

This calling, this Kingdom "yoke," is not going to be easy. But it is *His* yoke, and He will equip you.

And Jesus says to "learn from me"

Jesus' walk, His life, His love –these stories are how you will know how to be deacons.

Jesus was "gentle and humble in heart"

So follow Him in obedience and love.

And "you will find rest for your souls"

Once you learn from Jesus, from His life and ministry-

Once you follow Jesus into your calling as a deacon-

You will find that His "yoke is easy and His burden is light."

Praise God!

“ Really, every part of the charge to the deacons is about being like Jesus, and living as He lived. ”