Intro:
- Jesus illustrates our relationship to Him as putting on His yoke (Matt. 11:25-30)
- What can we learn from this metaphor, and our relationship with Jesus?

Explanation of the metaphor
- yoke: a devise for joining a pair of animals for work
  - video: man farming with oxen in Jammu, India
  - oxen yoked – have no choice, do what the owner compels them to do
  - owner uses whip to get them to obey

- yoke: a harness used to attach an animal to an implement such as a plow or wagon
  - pic: horse harnessed to wagon
  - single animal yoked to implement in order to work

- yoke: an implement extending over a person’s shoulders (one or both, neck) used to carry a load on both ends
  - pic: woman with yoke carrying buckets
  - our yoke with Jesus as our shepherd, rather than a driver of cattle
  - voluntarily put it on
  - voluntarily do the work
  - Jesus leads and we follow

- when we put on Jesus’ yoke, we do it voluntarily, to do His work, in His kingdom

Spiritual fact: everyone is wearing a yoke
- Matt. 11:29a as Christians, we wear Jesus’ yoke

- Gal. 5:1 if we depart from Christ we have a yoke of slavery
  - cf. Christ’s yoke is a yoke of freedom, spiritual freedom

- Rom. 6:3, 6-7, 16-19, 22a everyone is a slave to unrighteousness (Satan) or God
  - 1 Tim. 6:1 “yoke” is used of one in slavery – “All who are under the yoke as slaves. . .”
  - we decide which yoke to wear, and put it on voluntarily – yoke sin / yoke righteousness

- everyone is wearing a yoke
  - we choose whose yoke to wear – God’s, Satan’s
  - we can change at anything while living on earth
  - whose yoke are you wearing
everyone is wearing a yoke

- Process – 4 steps
  - Matt. 11:28a go to Jesus
    - 2 Th. 2:14 Jesus calls us through the gospel
    - Rev. 22:17 the Spirit and bride invite everyone to come, take the water of life without cost
    - Acts 2:47 He adds those who respond to His church
      - church: “ekklesia” called out body, from the world of sin
    - Matt. 7:21-23 not stop there, many go to Jesus and call Him Lord, but are lost
      - illus.: song #268, Hark, The Gentle Voice - review vs. 1 and chorus (hark)
  - Matt. 11:29a take, put on Jesus’ yoke
    - obey the gospel – become a Christian, disciple of Christ (Rom. 6)
      - Matt. 28:18-19 become disciple (Christian) when baptized – that’s when put on yoke
    - illus.: song #268, Hark, The Gentle Voice - review vs. 2a (take His yoke)
  - Matt. 11:29b learn from Jesus, what to do with His yoke on
    - learn from Jesus through His word – He is the teacher, we are His disciples
      - Eph. 4:20 we must learn Christ
      - Eph. 5:10 we must learn what is pleasing to the Lord
    - illus.: train horses and oxen what to do, how to do the work with the yoke on
    - illus.: song #268, Hark, The Gentle Voice - review vs. 2b (He will teach, you will learn)
  - Matt. 11:30 bear the burden, do the work, as you learn from Jesus - do Jesus’ work
    - each person decides how much work (burden) to do
      - Ja. 1:22 Christians are doers of the word, not merely hearers
    - illus.: song #268, Hark, The Gentle Voice - review vs. 3 and chorus (voice obeying, bear His yoke, burden take)

- process: go to Jesus, put on His yoke, learn, do the work
everyone is wearing a yoke / process: go, put on yoke, learn, work

- Applications from the metaphor:
  - we never take off the yoke – if we do, we fall away
    - Rev. 17:14 we are the called and chosen and faithful – faithful = never take off yoke, not fail to work
    - Col. 3:17 do all in the name of the Lord – not take off yoke – if we do, fall away

- we are yoked together as Christians, to do the Lord’s work together

  - video: horses harnessed to wagon
    - if one horse does nothing, all work stops
    - each has a job, and must do it to successfully pull the wagon

  - Rom. 12:4-6a members of one body, not have same function, we’re one body in Christ, each exercise gifts (not miraculous today, talents)
    - Eph. 4:16 each Christian has work to do, equally important, result is growth of the body
    - 2 Cor. 6:14 not to be bound together (equally yoked) with unbelievers

- Jesus’ yoke is the easiest and gentlest yoke we can put on
  - review: everyone is wearing a yoke (Satan and sin, Jesus and righteousness)
    - Matt. 11:28-30 rest, gentle, humble, rest for your souls, yoke is easy, burden is light
  - Jesus helps us – metaphorically yoked together with Him as our heavenly Brother, and yet as our Lord
    - Jesus served us by taking our sins in His body upon the cross (Rom. 15:3)
    - Jesus is teaching us
    - Jesus is helping us do the work
    - Jesus is leading us as our Shepherd, going before us as our forerunner
    - Jesus is our compassionate high priests, Advocate, and Mediator, seated at God’s right hand
  - contrast: false teachers, captivity, enslave, take advantage of them (Gal. 5:1; 2 Pet. 2:3, 19-22)

- we’re responsible (accountable) for doing the work we’re capable of doing – judgment
  - Matt. 25 parable of 10 virgins, parable of talents, judgment

Summary / Inv.
- everyone is wearing a yoke
- whose yoke are you wearing – Satan’s, Jesus’
- what do your deeds say about your yoke – whose is it, are you really working or just lukewarm
- inv.: you can put on a different yoke at anytime
  - take off Satan’s and put on Jesus’
  - keep Jesus’ yoke on for life