**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | What to Do with Your Burdens |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Galatians 6:1-5 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2020 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Everybody has burdens.
      1. If you do not have burdens, you are probably not a thinking person.
      2. Job 5:7
      3. Saved or lost, we are going to know burdens.
   2. Galatians 6:1-5
   3. There are three kinds of burdens:
      1. Those we willingly take up.
      2. Those we faithfully endure.
      3. Those we wisely lay down.
2. BURDENS WE WILLINGLY TAKE UP (GALATIANS 6:1)
   1. We are not to try to escape these burdens.
      1. The burdens of another brother or sister.
   2. Paul is writing to the backslidden person; the person who has gotten away from God.
   3. This passage speaks directly to Christians.
      1. “Brethren” refers to our brothers and sisters in Christ.
         1. This may also be someone who has gotten away from God and needs to be restored.
   4. The ministry of restoration.
      1. “Restore” is referring to a person who was once in fellowship with God and now has gotten out of fellowship.
         1. Generally, this person has been overtaken in a fault.
         2. This is not an unsaved person.
         3. This is a saved person, endeavoring to get away from sin, but sin over took them.
      2. While we are running from sin, Satan is running after us.
         1. Sometimes we are overtaken.
         2. Sometimes we stumble and fall.
      3. When we get saved, that does not mean that we cannot sin anymore.
         1. Sometimes we are overtaken in a fault.
      4. Galatians 6:1-5 is a hope for the brokenhearted Christian who has fallen out of fellowship with God.
         1. It is a word of warning for Christians in fellowship with God.
         2. It is a call to action for all everyone.
      5. God is a God of second chances.
         1. There are many examples of men who got out of fellowship with God and then got back to God.
            1. The Bible does not mistake the moment for the man.
         2. Jonah
            1. Jonah 1:1

Jonah was in such intimate contact with God that he could hear the word of the Lord.

* + - * 1. God wanted to use Jonah but Jonah ran from God.
        2. But when he came back to God, God used him to bring the entire city of Nineveh to repentance and faith.
      1. Simon Peter
         1. Matthew 16:16
         2. Though he believed, he cursed and swore and denied Jesus Christ.
         3. Though he stumbled and fell, he came back to God and became the mighty apostle of Pentecost.
      2. John Mark, who wrote the Gospel of Mark.
         1. Started out with Paul and Silas on a missionary journey.

John Mark got frightened and home sick and went back home.

Paul lost confidence in him.

* + - * 1. On another missionary journey, someone wanted to bring John Mark along and Paul said no.

Paul considered him a quitter.

So Barnabas took Mark with him.

* + - * 1. God restored John Mark and he wrote the Gospel of Mark.

Later on, Paul called for Mark because He found him profitable.

* + - 1. David; a man after God’s own heart.
         1. David got away from God and committed a horrible crime.

Yet, he prayed and God brought him back.

* + - 1. “Restore” literally means “to set a bone that has been broken,” or “to mend a net that has been torn.”
         1. Putting back in place that which is broken or a net that is torn.
    1. A broken person, those out of the fellowship, doesn’t need:
       1. A lecture
       2. To be ignored
       3. To be reported
       4. To be shot down
       5. To be cut off or cast away
       6. A broken person cannot ignore it.
          1. When one member suffers, the whole body suffers.
          2. We need to be as sensitive spiritually as we are physically.
    2. When a brother or sister in Christ is broken, it is our business; they are a part of the body.
       1. Condemning that person is to condemn yourself.
          1. Christians have a way of crucifying living saints, worshipping dead saints and shooting wounded saints.
       2. When God burdens our heart concerning a broken Christian, it is because He want us to go to them and love on them.
       3. When we refuse to minister to a Christian in need, we are saying that we are not qualified; we are not spiritual.
          1. Galatians 6:1
          2. If we are a spiritual person, then we have all the qualifications we need to restore another believer.
  1. The manner of restoration.
     1. Do it gently.
        1. In a spirit of meekness; tender loving care.
        2. We cannot restore someone if we are harsh and overbearing.
        3. Dads whose children love them most are gentle dads.
     2. Do it humbly.
        1. We are each three persons:
           1. The person we are right now.
           2. The person we could be for holiness and good in God.
           3. The person we could be for debauchery and wickedness if we take our eyes off of Jesus.
        2. These things happened to Jonah, Elijah, Simon Peter, John Mark; are we better than they were?
           1. 1 Corinthians 10:12
     3. Do it sympathetically.
        1. Galatians 6:2
        2. A saved person, running from sin and in fellowship with God but has been overtaken by sin, is carrying a big burden.
           1. But if he is not saved, he is not carrying a burden.
        3. The most miserable man on Earth is not an unsaved man, but a saved man out of fellowship with God.
           1. Psalm 51:12
        4. A person needing restoration experiences:
           1. A broken relationship with God.

Psalm 51:4

David’s fellowship with God was broken.

* + - * 1. A guilty conscience.

Psalm 32:4

David used to be spiritually full of joy but is now dry as dust.

* + - * 1. Satanic accusation.

The devil becomes the accuser of the Christian away from God.

Before a Christian sins the devil says, “Go ahead, you can get away with it.”

After a Christian sins the devil says, “You will never get away with it.”

This is not Holy Spirit conviction; this is satanic accusation.

* + - * 1. Public shame.

Because of their sin, they feel they cannot show up in church anymore.

As Christians, we need to receive them and let them know they are loved and welcome to come home.

* 1. The motives of restoration:
     1. He’s our brother.
        1. Galatians 6:1
     2. We’re members of the same family.
        1. When one member suffers, the entire body suffers.
     3. To fulfill the law of Christ which is love.
        1. Galatians 6:2
        2. The “law of Christ” can be found in Galatians 5:14.
           1. Genuine, Christ-like love; loving your neighbor as yourself.
        3. We need to love those that have fallen as we would want to be loved if we were in that situation.
        4. Only a spiritual person can do this.
           1. Romans 5:5
     4. To mend the broken net.
        1. God has put us together to be a network.
        2. When Jesus called the disciples they were mending nets.
        3. A broken Christian is a hole in the net.
        4. The greatest testimony for Jesus and the greatest testimony against Jesus is the life of a Christian.
           1. The Bible calls us “living epistles.”

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

* + - 1. We need to patch the holes in the net.

1. BURDENS WE FAITHFULLY STAY UNDER (GALATIANS 6:4-5)
   1. These verses do not contradict each other, they complement each other.
   2. There are two different words used for burden.
      1. The verse usage means “a heavy load,” something onerous, something that weighs us down like being out of fellowship with God.
         1. This is a heavy, heavy burden; a crushing load.
         2. When someone has a load like this, we are to come and bear that burden for them.
         3. This is a burden that we willingly take up; when we bear one another’s burdens.
      2. The word in this passage, phortion in the Greek, is a different word for burden.
         1. It has the idea of a soldier’s backpack strapped to your back.
         2. This type of burden is one that is necessary, it is not burdensome but is useful.
         3. Something that may make you useful and possibly even save your life.
         4. God does not want us to live lives of ease.
         5. God wants us to live disciplined lives.
            1. God lays these burdens upon us because these are burdens that we are to stay under.
   3. There are certain responsibilities that nobody can do for us.
      1. We cannot relegate or delegate these burdens to anyone else.
         1. Nobody can repent for you.
         2. Nobody can trust Christ for you.
         3. Nobody can love God for you.
         4. Nobody can repent of sin for you.
      2. Certain things are our responsibilities and become our blessings if we will take them.
      3. We need to be willing to relieve a brother, to bear his burden.
         1. A broken Christian is not a call to gossip, but a call to prayer.
2. BURDENS WE GLADLY LAY DOWN (PSALM 55:22)
   1. Cast your burden upon the Lord; He will sustain you.
   2. King David wrote this Psalm after he had been restored when his burden had been lifted.
   3. Burdens come to the high as well as the low.
      1. Burdens come to saints as well as sinners.
      2. Burdens come to the old as well as the young.
   4. These are burdens that we are to cast upon the Lord; roll them onto the Lord.
      1. A child that has ripped your heart out.
      2. A spouse that has forsaken you.
      3. A physical malady that is affecting your body.
      4. A problem that is perplexing you.
3. CONCLUSION
   1. Has the burden that you have been given to you by God to cause you to come to His feet?
      1. Maybe He has called you other ways, but you would not come.
      2. Maybe the burden is what God is using to bring you to the Master’s feet.
   2. Cast your burden upon the Lord; He loves you.
   3. If you have gotten away from God, He will receive you back.
   4. If you have never known the Lord, You can be saved and He will receive you.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16