



LET HIM HELP WITH YOUR BAGGAGE

Ron Hutchcraft

Jesus said, ***“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest” (Matt.11: 28)***. That's a wonderful invitation that is re-echoed in another place in the Bible; ***“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you” (1Pet.5: 7)***.

Now, we all have baggage, the emotional kind. In fact, maybe you're carrying a lot of pain right now. Maybe you've got some crippling issues from your past. Maybe some bad news you got recently or an overload of stress. It could be you carry baggage from a divorce - it could be your own

or maybe your parents' divorce, or from some form of abuse or a bad relationship. Some of us are trying to carry the weight of a serious medical condition, a financial crisis, maybe a family issue.

My friend John has some very heavy baggage. One day in a doctor's office, he heard one of those words we dread – cancer! He has a deadly cancer. He is supposed to have been gone three or four times already. John had ten operations in eight years, but when you talk to John you just can't believe what he's gone through, or he is going through. He's joyful and positive. He's interested in how you're doing. It's just hard to believe he could be carrying such heavy weight, yet seem so light. John is an encouragement to other patients. That's what they told him. So his doctor called him one day and said "Can you visit some of my other patients? They need what you have." What does John have? He made that clear the other day. He told me about others that he knows who are falling under the weight of cancer.

Then he just made this simple observation. He said, "They're trying to handle it without a Saviour." Well that's the difference for John - the Saviour difference - Jesus difference. He could be the difference for you. Let's look at the baggage you're carrying. I wonder if John's words describe you, trying to handle it without a Saviour. See, you were never meant to carry that pain or that burden alone. Jesus says, "Come to me. I want to carry it." He's a burden carrier. He knows your pain. He understands it because He's been here. He's experienced everything from loneliness, to betrayal, to torture, to dying; and Jesus has dealt with the deadliest baggage of all that we carry; the sin of our lives. Because that will one day keep us out of heaven.

But the Bible says, "He carried our sins in His own body on the tree." And the day you tell Him that you trust Him to be your Saviour from your own sin, that's the last day you will ever carry your burden alone. The strong arms of Jesus are reaching out to you right now, and He says, "Let me help you with your baggage. I can handle it. I already bore all the weight of all your sins on my cross. The rest is easy." The promise of Jesus still is: "I will give you rest." You begin your relationship with Him when you say, "Jesus, I'm yours." I hope you'll do that today.