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The Heavy Backpack

For anyone who is tired of carrying rocks.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

Picture a boy named Sam. Every morning he walks to school bent over under a heavy backpack. One day a friend looks inside. There are no books in there. There are rocks.

Each rock has a word written on it. “Give ten percent, or God will be mad.” “Never work on Saturday.” “Say the right prayer, the right way.” “Try harder. Do more. Be better.”

“Why do you carry all these?” his friend asks. Sam shrugs. “Somebody told me I had to. I thought God wanted me to.”

Maybe you carry one too

You love God. You want to please Him. But you are tired all the time. Did I give enough? Did I keep the right day? Did I pray the right words? Is God happy with me, or is He upset? Many good people ask these questions quietly and keep walking, bent over, with a bag full of rocks.

These teachings open the Bible and let Jesus speak. We read verses in their setting, and we look at the Greek words the New Testament was first written in.

We will talk about tithing, the Sabbath, man-made religion, and the biggest question of all: how a person is saved.

Not less, but better

This is not about doing less for God or keeping your money. It is about living from a better place: from love instead of fear, from the life of Jesus inside you instead of a list on the outside.

The Law of Moses was good. God gave it to one nation, for one season. Jesus did not throw it away. He filled it all the way up and finished it. Because He finished it, you can set the backpack down.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

A gift is not earned. It is received. Notice what Jesus did not say: “Come to my rules,” or “Come to my calendar.” He said, “Come to me.” The rest is found in a Person.

We will be honest and bold about what the Bible says, but never mean to people. Jesus was hard on religious systems and gentle with the people stuck in them. That is the way we want to walk too.

Remember this

You do not have to carry a backpack full of rules to please God. Jesus says, “Come to me,” and He gives rest to all who believe in

Him.