



Monday Matters

August 5, 2013

What's In Your Backpack?

Two or three years ago while attending Southeast Christian in Louisville where Dave Stone is the senior minister, I heard Dave speak of carrying burdens. Sunday morning, first service, he came out wearing an empty backpack. He began preaching about the burdens we carry. Some of these burdens, maybe many of them, are self-imposed burdens.

As Dave spoke of the various types of burdens we have, someone came on the platform and put in a weight or two in his backpack. After a few more minutes, a person came out again and put more weight in the backpack. The burdens we carry become quite burdensome. More weights



My Burdens Have Rolled Away
Gaither Homecoming

came. Before long Dave had 95 pounds of weight placed in the backpack. The audience could tell he was having difficulty preaching with that much weight and it was beginning to take its toll on him. (He had already preached this same message on Saturday evening and still had another service after this one.)

Dave then turned the message into something positive. He began explaining how we can turn these burdens over to Jesus and our load becomes lighter. The more he preached about Jesus lifting our burdens, someone would come out and take some of the weights out of the backpack. Before long the backpack was empty.

It was a great illustration and brought the message home to many people who needed their burdens lifted.



This week I was reminded of another illustration that happened in New Zealand in 2004. There was a Merino sheep by the name of Shrek and had become quite famous. Shrek had been hiding out in caves for six years evading capture on the South Island. The owner, John Perriam, did not even seem to miss him for several years. Perriam had 17,000 Merino sheep on his ranch. They are known for their prize wool, some of the softest in the world. During these years his fleece continued to grow. Most sheep have a fleece weighing about ten pounds that

Quote of the Week

Do you feel at times the trials and burdens placed in our individual crucibles are almost unbearable, as we feel the heat of the refiners fire. Remember, God has His eye on us, and will listen to our prayers.

~ Tom Baker ~

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would be shaved (shorn) each year. Shrek's fleece weighed sixty pounds. That's enough wool to make 20 men's suits. Shrek carried this awesome burden around year after year and it continued to grow. All because he had wandered away from his shepherd. But once he came back to his shepherd, John Perriam, his burdens were lifted. He was shorn.

Jesus is the One who can lift our burdens away. It is He who can shave our fleece and take away self-imposed burdens. If we have wandered away from the Good Shepherd and life isn't what we want it to be, all we need to do is come back to Him. Matthew 11:28-30 says, Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Is your fleece heavy? The Good Shepherd can lift your heavy burdens.

By Ron Nelson

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Rolled away