Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30. The Matthew lectionary reading is in bits that do not seem to link up.

[1] **Children in the Market Place** (16-19)

The people of Jesus’ day criticised both John the Baptizer and Jesus. You can almost hear the whining children!

[2] **The Unlearned can See what the Clever cannot** (25-26)   
(Mark 11.46-52) Bartimaeus was blind but could see, the Pharisees could see but were blind!   
[3] **Christ will Help Bear your Burdens** (28-30)

The yoke is for two animals side by side, so one can help the other.

What is the connection? Lack of acceptance.

[1] ***Not accepting others’ motives***

In a church one group/person might think their agenda or point of view is the only one.

That group/person might easily criticise the church/minister/other leader for not dancing to their tune.

[2] ***Not accepting other ways of hearing God.***

God can speak to us in many ways: Bible, prayer, children, experience, tradition, not just in thinking.

[3] ***Not accepting help***

We think the verse is about God mysteriously helping us, and forget that the help might be a person.

Also often people who give, find it hard to receive.

Lack of acceptance betrays a lack of trust and love. This is immensely damaging to our witness.

I don’t say you shouldn’t have strong ideas, use brains, or carry burdens. Imagine what that would look like!

But that these should not be the means to reject others.

Even more deeply than lack of acceptance of others, it is about not accepting God.

Disciples follow Jesus, but also accept that inner transformation from God. *That’s* what the reading is about.