

Spiritual Growth and Christian Character

Lesson 2 – Complete Surrender

Introduction - The purpose of today's lesson is to get us thinking about general areas of our lives that Jesus should have complete control over.

The "Cost" of Discipleship

It never costs a disciple anything to follow Jesus: **to talk about cost when you are in love with someone is an insult.** Oswald Chambers (1874–1917)

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that we must be "willing" to give up everything to follow Jesus. Jesus demands that we give up everything in spite of our willingness.

²⁵Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, ²⁶"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he **cannot be My disciple.** ²⁷"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me **cannot be My disciple.** ²⁸"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?

²⁹"Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹"Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand *men* to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

³²"Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³"So then, **none of you can be My disciple** who does not give up all his own possessions. Luke 14:25-33 (NASB)

Jesus requires that our love for and devotion to Him be so deep and overwhelming that our attachment to everything else including our own lives would seem like hatred by comparison. (Luke 14:26)

Jesus requires that each day we lay down our lives for Him. All that we are (dreams, hopes, desires, ambitions, every area of life) needs to be laid down for Him. This speaks of the denial of self and self-interest that puts Jesus above everything else (Luke 14:27 and Luke 9:23)

Jesus requires that we give up (say goodbye to, renounce, forsake) all our own possessions (family relationships, all to do with self and self-interest, desires, goals, dreams, pursuits ... everything) to follow Him. (Luke 14:33) John MacArthur in the MacArthur Study Bible note to Luke 14:33 states: "This speaks of something far more than mere abandonment of one's material possessions; it is an absolute, unconditional surrender. His disciples were permitted to retain no privileges and make no demands. They were to safeguard no cherished sins; treasure no earthly possessions; and cling to no secret self-indulgences. Their commitment to Him must be without reservation."

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Complete Surrender

When we trust in Jesus and receive Him into our lives we receive Him as *Lord* and Savior. We surrender all to Him. As we grow Jesus shows us areas of our lives that do not please Him. As He shows us these areas, we repent and surrender them to Him.

The following ideas were taken from *My Heart-Christ's Home* by Robert Boyd Munger, 1986 by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. The accompanying study was added for this class. We can think of Jesus coming to live in our hearts and the heart being His home. Each room in our heart is an area of our lives that must be completely surrendered to Jesus.

The Study / Library – The mind. The place where information enters and thoughts are formed. The things that we put into our mind are present for Jesus to see. And the pictures on the wall – the thoughts and imaginations of our mind.

Truth: ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. Phil. 4:8 (NASB)

The Dining Room – The room of appetites and desires. (money, success, recognition, esteem, pleasure, recreation, etc.)

Truth: ³⁴Jesus said* to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. John 4:34 (NASB)

The Living Room – A warm, cozy, secluded and quite place for intimate fellowship with Jesus. But how much time do we spend with Him?

The Workroom – On the workbench are my gifts, skills, and talents. Is our workbench cluttered with useless stuff? What are we producing for the kingdom of Heaven? In whose strength?

Truth: As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Pet. 4:10 (NASB)

Truth: "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, **for apart from Me you can do nothing.** John 15:5 (NASB)

The Rec Room – What do I do with my time? Am I ashamed to take Jesus there?

Truth: "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full. John 15:11 (NASB)

Truth: But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; Eph. 5:3 (NASB)

The Bedroom – Are we pure physically and in our thoughts?

Truth: For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 1 Thess. 4:3 (NASB)

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The Hall Closet – The place where we store our secret sins, the hidden away sins that we desire to hold onto.

Truth: ²³And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. Luke 9:23 (NASB)

Conclusion: To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is not simply be "willing" to give up everything, but to forsake all things and surrender ownership of all things to Him in spite of our willingness. What things will Jesus find in you heart? If he doesn't like the things He finds what will you do with them?

Homework

Read Matt 1-7

Take some extended time to pray and ask God to search your heart/home. Repent of those things that are not pleasing to Him.