

HAVE YOU SURRENDERED TO YOUR MASTER?

I want to start off this morning by briefly recapping what we've looked at so far in this series on bringing glory to God.

First, we looked at the truth that **God requires us** to glorify Him—and **made us** for that very purpose! Isaiah 43:7, 21 “Even every one that is called by my name: for I have **created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. ²¹ This people have I **formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.**”

Second, we looked at the **benefits and blessings** of knowing we were created to glorify God. **Why does it matter** that we know—and believe—that we were created to glorify God? Because it gives us purpose and peace in life...and perspective regarding trials...and it prepares us for heaven.

Third—two weeks ago—we looked at the **rightness and reasons** for bringing glory to God. **Why** is it right to bring glory to God? Because God **is the Supreme Being**—meaning **no one** and **no thing** is greater than Him! It also means that if we give glory to someone or something **other than Him**, we are robbing Him of what He deserves—and promoting a lie!

What are the **reasons** to bring glory to God? Where do we start, right? I agree with the opinion of one man who wrote: “The reasons are as infinite as God Himself!” Two weeks ago, we looked at two reasons:

1) Because of **His mercy**. **Romans 15:9** “And that the Gentiles might glorify God **for His mercy...**”

Aren't you glad God extends His mercy to us?

What is mercy? Mercy is often defined simply as “the withholding of judgment.”

God withholds judgment from us—and offers to forgive us—because He took the judgment that **we deserved**—and that He required—upon Himself! The Just One—Jesus Christ—died for us (the unjust) that He might bring us to God we are told in 1 Peter 3:18.

2) A second reason we ought to glorify God is **because of His mastery**—His ownership—of us. We see that in **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and **ye are not your own**? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: **therefore glorify God** in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Why is it reasonable for us to surrender to God as our Master? We looked at two reasons:

1) Because of the greatness of the price paid.

2) Because of the goodness of the Price-payer.

Lastly, we briefly considered **our response** to God being our master. Have we submitted to—have we surrendered to—God as our master; the One we are to obey and serve?

Because I touched on that thought **only briefly** last time—and because it is an **absolute essential** to being a follower of Christ—I felt led to expand on it more this morning.

I think surrender also **ties into bringing glory** to God in this way.

What is it that hinders us from bringing glory **to God**? The desire to bring glory **to ourselves**!

What do we call the desire to bring **glory to ourselves**? Pride!

What's **the opposite** of pride? Humility!

How is **humility demonstrated** in our lives? In the same way humility was seen in the life of Jesus.

How was **humility demonstrated** in the life of Jesus? By **His submission to the will** of the Father!

How should we demonstrate humility in our lives? By **submitting to the will** of the Father!

Why should we submit to the will of the Father?

Because we've been bought with a price and are not our own! And so, we've come full circle!

The title of my message this morning is simply this: “Have **You** Surrendered to **Your** Master?”

1. Surrender displayed in the example of Jesus

First, surrender is... A. Seen in Jesus' words. Please take your Bibles and turn to John 4. Notice what it says in vs 34: “My meat” (meaning “food”) “is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.”

Jesus' desire...His heartbeat...that which kept Him going...was doing the will of the Father!

F.F. Bruce wrote: "To listen to the Father's voice and to do His will were the joy and strength of His life." (*The Gospel and Epistles of John*, pg 113). Is the joy of **our life** to hear—and do—what God the Father says? It **was for Jesus**—and should be for us!

Now turn to John 5:30. Again, we see that the desire of Jesus was to do the Father's will. Now John 6:38. Doesn't get much plainer than that, does it?

Go toward the back of your Bibles to Hebrews 10. Please follow along as I begin reading in vs 5.

--"Wherefore when He" (Christ) "cometh into the world..."

What did He say? "...a body hast thou prepared for me."

--Now vss 6-9. Twice—in verse 7 and 9—it says of Jesus that **He came to do the will of the Father**. And let's not forget what Jesus—as a 12-year-old boy—said to Mary and Joseph when they found Him in the temple, listening and asking questions of the religious doctors. Luke 2:49 "And He said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye [know you] not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Jesus' surrender to the will of the Father is seen in more than **just His words**, though. It was also...

B. Seen in Jesus' willingness to suffer

Please turn now to Matthew 26. The prayer of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane—"Not my will, but thine be done"—is something most of us are familiar with.

Although we know what Jesus **said**, I don't believe we can fully understand what **He felt** when He said those words. I want to start with vs 37. **Who** are the two sons of Zebedee? James and John.

Matthew Henry points out that the same three disciples that saw the **glory of Jesus** when His face "did shine as the sun" on the Mount of Transfiguration are now invited to see **the agony of Jesus**.

--Now vs 38. Let's pause for a moment and think about **why** Jesus' soul was exceeding sorrowful.

--**As God**, I believe Jesus knew everything that was about to happen:

1) He knew of the **emotional hurt** of being betrayed by Judas...and denied by Peter...and deserted by His followers...and mocked by the crowd.

2) He knew of the **physical torture** that lay ahead of Him: the **crown of thorns** beat unto His head...His **beard** plucked from His face...His **face being punched**. He knew ahead of time that He would **be spit on**...and **whipped**...and have **nails driven** into His wrists and feet. And I believe He knew—ahead of time—what it was like to die the **cruelly slow and agonizingly painful** death of crucifixion on a cross!

3) But—as mentioned a couple of weeks ago—I believe **the spiritual anguish** Jesus faced while dying for our sins was even greater than the emotional and physical pain He suffered.

This quote from the **Pulpit Commentary** (Bible Hub; Mt 26:38) captures it well: "Added to all this was the incalculable fact that "the Lord had laid on Him the iniquity of us all." The burden of the sins of all mankind He bore on His sacred shoulders. "Him who knew no sin God made to be sin on our behalf" ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). What this mysterious imputation, so to speak, involved, we cannot tell; but to a **Being perfectly pure and holy** it must have been anguish unspeakable."

As God, Jesus knew this all ahead of time; **as man**, Jesus would feel—physically—the same pain that we would have felt if we were in His place. And yet, what was the attitude of Jesus?

--End of vs 39 "...nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

What did surrender look like in the life of Jesus? Two things: **First**, declarations...statements...words of surrender to the will of the Father. But it **wasn't just words**, was it? **Saying** you are going to surrender is one thing; actually **doing it** is quite another. The **second way** Jesus showed submission was actually **doing the will** of the Father—even when it involved sacrifice and suffering.

Not only was surrender **displayed in the example** of Jesus' life, but Jesus also exhorted those who followed Him about the necessity of surrender.

Jesus certainly “practiced what He preached”—but He also “preached what He practiced!”

2. Surrender desired in the exhortations of Jesus

Did Jesus teach about our need to surrender ourselves to the will of the Father? He **certainly did**—and much more often than we may be aware of! But...He did it **without using** the word “surrender.” In fact, neither the word “surrender”—or “surrendered”—appears anywhere in our King James Bibles!

A. The description of surrender

So how do we know Jesus **taught about** our need to surrender if He didn’t even use the word? Because of the words that He did use! What words did He use to describe surrender? The **cross, deny ourselves, and death!**

You’re in Matthew 26; turn back to Matthew 16. Notice what it says in verse 24.

--Vs 24. “Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after me, **let him deny himself**, and take up **his cross**, and follow me.” Jesus says nearly the same thing—using the words “deny” and/or “cross”—three other times (Mt 10:38; Mk 8:34; Lk 9:23).

It is important for us to understand that **“the cross”** during the time of Jesus carried a very **different meaning** than it does now. It was not a **piece of jewelry** that was worn in your ears...or around your neck...or on a key chain. And it was **not a symbol** of Christianity. The cross—during the time of Jesus—did not even **mean a difficulty or a trial**. The cross—when Jesus spoke these words—meant one thing: **death!**

--Now vs 25. “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will **lose his life** for my sake shall find it.” What does it mean to “lose our life”? In the **literal sense**, it means to **physically** die.

--But is **that how** Jesus is using it here? **No!** How do we know? Because we can’t “come after” Jesus...and deny ourselves...and take up our cross...and follow Jesus if we are **physically** dead!

So what is Jesus asking us to do? **Die to self**, right? In other words, **surrender** our will to His will!

B. The decision to surrender

Does God “make us” surrender to Him? He doesn’t, does He? He **wants us to**—but He gives us a choice. Surrender is voluntary. Notice again what it says in vs 24: “If any man **will** come after me, **let him** deny himself, and take up his cross...” So—technically—you don’t have to deny yourself... and take up your cross...and follow Jesus!

But...if you want to be a **true follower** of Jesus, you do need to **deny** self...and **die** to self! Jesus, of course, was not the only one who taught this. Paul had much to say on this topic; for now we’ll just look at one verse. **Romans 12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

What does it mean to **present yourself** as a living sacrifice to God? Die to self; surrender your will to God’s will; put yourself at God’s disposal; allow God to be the Lord and Master of your life!

I have on your outline a rather lengthy quote from a devotional book I’m reading called, “Streams in the Desert” by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman. I believe it captures well not only the concept of dying to self, but also the blessedness—the joy and satisfaction—that comes with the surrender of our wills to God.

"There never has been known great saintliness of soul which did not pass through great suffering. When the suffering soul reaches a **calm sweet carelessness**, when it **can inwardly smile at its own suffering**, then it has wrought its blessed ministry; then patience has its perfect work; then the crucifixion begins to weave itself into a crown."

"The affections are weaned from all creatures and all things; it is **so dead that nothing can hurt it, nothing can offend it, nothing can hinder it, nothing can get in its way**...and it feels assured that God is making everything in the universe, good or bad, past or present, work together for its good."

"Oh, the blessedness of being absolutely conquered!" (September 10th)

Sadly, the thought of being “absolutely conquered” by God is something too many believers try to avoid!

What about you? Can you “smile at suffering,” knowing it is for your good and for God’s glory?

--If not, we are not “dead to self!”

Are you “weaned from all creatures and all things” of this life?

--If not, we are not "dead to self!"

Are you easily hurt...and easily offended...and easily hindered?

--If so, we are not "dead to self!"

Lastly, let's consider... **3. Surrender demonstrated in the followers of Jesus**

Jesus was not the only one who preached—and practiced—the necessity of surrender. His followers did as well, especially—as already mentioned—**the apostle Paul**.

First, let's consider... A. Proof of Paul's surrendered life

I've given you the references for these verses so you can check them out later rather than try to keep up.

--In Acts 9, immediately after his conversion, Paul asked "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6)

--In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are thrown into prison for preaching—and at midnight they were praying and singing praises to God (Acts 16:25).

--In Acts 20, Paul tells the elders of the church in Ephesus that he is on his way to Jerusalem and even though he doesn't know what is going to happen there, he does know that "bonds and afflictions" await him in every city. What was Paul's attitude despite knowing all the "trouble" that was ahead of him?

Acts 20:24 "But none of these things move me, **neither count I my life dear unto myself**, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

--In Acts 21, Paul is told by the prophet Agabus that he would be bound and turned over to the Gentiles in Jerusalem. Paul's response? Acts 21:13 "Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready **not to be bound only, but also to die** at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Paul's life was surrendered to the will of God—and whether he lived or died it made no difference to him! In fact, he wrote in Philippians 1:23-24 "For I am in a strait betwixt two, **having a desire to depart**, and to be with Christ; which is far better: ²⁴Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."

Paul's "druthers"—his desire—was to leave this old world behind and go be with Christ. But...he knew **people** needed him, so he was willing to stay. Why? Because he was surrendered to God and God's will!

B. Paul's teaching on the need to surrender

Lastly, please take your Bibles and turn to the book of Galatians. Here we have just a couple of the many times that Paul referred to his "death to self."

--Galatians 2:20. Was Paul **literally, physically** dead? No; but he counted himself as dead to himself—and surrendered to Christ.

--Galatians 6:14. Again, we see Paul's attitude of "death to self." The "world" being "crucified unto me" did not mean Paul owned a **globe that was impaled on a cross**. What it means was that the cares of this world...and the deceitfulness of riches...and the desire for fame and power had no hold on him. Why?

Because he considered himself dead!

--Phil 3:7-8 "But what things were **gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ**. ⁸Yea doubtless, and I **count all things but loss** for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **do count them but dung...**"

--I Cor 15:31 "I die daily..."

Was Paul being a bragger by writing about his "death to self?" No; God had him write it to **challenge us** to do the same—not to glorify Paul!

Phil 2:5-8 "Let this mind [thinking; attitude] be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, He **humbled Himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the **death of the cross**."

Simply put, God is telling us—through the apostle Paul—that we are to have the same kind of willingness to surrender to God's will that Jesus had!

George Mueller, a man of Bristol, England, who lived in the 1800s and took in thousands of orphans, was asked the secret of his service. Mueller replied, “There was a day when **I died**, utterly **died; died** to George Mueller...**died to the world**...and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.”

Amy Carmichael went to South India from Ireland in 1895 and served there as an unmarried missionary for 55 yrs. She, too, ran an orphanage—only hers was quite different from George Mueller’s because she rescued young Indian girls who were **trafficked** as Hindu temple prostitutes. She **wrote to her mother**: “Oh that **we may die**, not in mere hymn and prayer, but in deed and in truth, **to ourselves, to our self-life and self-love**. I never knew what it meant before—**dead** to all voices, however dear, which would deafen our ear to His—**alive** unto God.... We Christians have been trying to **get as much as ever we could out of this life**, we have followed our Saviour, it seems to me, **very, very far off**...” (Amy Carmichael of Dohnavur, pg 49).

What about you? Have you died to self? Are you surrendered to the will of the Father?

So, what is it that God wants **us to do** with what we’ve heard?

1. First, what—or who—are you counting on to get to heaven? That’s the most important thing, isn’t it? Where are you going to spend eternity after your body dies?

--We need to **have** Christ—not just believe that He exists!

I John 5:12 “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

--Do **you** have Christ? You either do—or don’t? There is no in-between!

2. Second, if **you do** have Christ—if you are born again and heaven-bound—you are not your own—you’ve been bought with a price!

--Have you surrendered your will to God’s?

As stated a couple of weeks ago, I believe we need to make a “once and for all” decision to surrender to God as our Master—and then renew that commitment daily.

--How different our lives would be if we reminded ourselves daily of the need to die to self!