MEN OF SURRENDER

Men who are part of the kingdom of God look radically different from what the world values in men or teaches men to become. The world often tells men to live life on their own terms, be their own masters, and surrender to no one. Yet, Jesus calls us to surrender. He does not just call people to believe in certain facts about Him; He calls us to turn the rule and authority of our lives over to Him. After all, He is the King, and those in His kingdom are those who allow Him to rule their hearts and lives. Nothing and no one should be excepted. Therefore, kingdom men are men of surrender!

ROMANS 12:1-2

God has provided the sacrifice of Jesus to die on the cross to provide His mercy and grace. Jesus surrendered Himself to death on the cross, despite being God and having the ability to be delivered from suffering and death (Matthew 26:47-56; Philippians 2:5-11). In light of this great mercy that has been provided through Jesus, those who are part of God's kingdom are now called to surrender their lives to God! Rather than bringing God a sacrifice of an animal or food, God wants your entire life to be surrendered to Him in a way that is holy and pleasing to Him. Instead of your physical body being used to fulfill your fleshly desires or the desires of the world, you are called to use them in the service of King Jesus (Romans 6:12-13). No longer must you allow your earthly life to take the same shape as the sinful things of this world. Now, they must be surrendered to God so He can transform you according to all that is according to His good, pleasing, and perfect will. You must surrender your career, possessions, relationships, sexuality, time, entertainment, ambitions, comfort, plans, and everything that makes up your earthly life to the rule of Jesus Christ, to do what is according to the will of God (Luke 14:25-33)!

LUKE 5:1-11

These fishermen were likely exhausted and discouraged after an entire night of fishing with nothing to show for it. Yet they surrendered their pride, their own ideas about fishing, their exhaustion, their plans, and more to obey what Jesus instructed – with the result of an incredible haul of fish! After seeing this, they surrendered everything to follow Jesus so they could learn from His teachings and ways and be trained in His service. They surrendered their careers, their relationships, their personal ambitions, their plans, their possessions, and everything for the honor and blessings of following Jesus (Luke 18:28-30). These early disciples are excellent examples of what Jesus wants men to become today. He desires men who will surrender what they have been and what they have known so He can mold them into men in His likeness and use them in His service! However, to experience this tremendous outcome, you must fully and unconditionally surrender and let Jesus rule as King of your life.

GALATIANS 2:19-20

Paul (previously called Saul) had built his identity on his understanding of the Law of Moses (as a Pharisee, Acts 26:5). However, meeting Jesus changed all of that (Acts 9)! Now, he considered his life in the flesh to be crucified with Christ. It was no longer about what he thought, how he had been trained to live, or what he was accustomed to doing. Instead, it was all about living by faith for King Jesus, who had given Himself to die so Paul could be saved. In the same way, we all had built our identities on things prior to coming to know Christ. Maybe it was a career. An earthly ambition. A physical interest. A fleshly desire. A relationship. A belief system or ideology. Yet, meeting Jesus should change it all! When we recognize what Christ has done for us, we must surrender our lives to Him. Rather than our lives continuing to be defined by old things, our lives must now be defined by faith in Jesus (trusting and obeying whatever He says)!

PHILIPPIANS 3:3-11

After listing all the things he had built his confidence on according to the flesh prior to meeting Jesus, Paul demonstrated his perspective of giving all of that up to live for Jesus. Rather than seeing those as things that were ripped away from him against his will, Paul sees them as things that were in the "loss" rather than "profit" column of his life! He has now come to recognize that knowing and living for Jesus Christ is a profit that is of surpassing value compared to everything else he experienced in life. Similarly, we must all do an inventory and accounting of the things our lives have consisted of. When we can understand

the exceptional value of what Christ has made available to us in His kingdom (Matthew 13:44-46), nothing else in life will compare! So, we will be willing to give up and change anything and everything that fails to glorify King Jesus in our lives or that works against His purposes and righteousness.

TITUS 2:11-14

Encountering and experiencing God's grace through Jesus should change everything about the trajectory of our lives (Ephesians 2:1-10). This grace is not, however, just something we receive. It is something that ought to change us and lead us to surrender to God's will over our own! After all, living according to our own thoughts and ways resulted in death (Romans 6:16-23). Now, through Christ, we can be redeemed (bought back) from our sin and be cleansed. However, Jesus did not just die to do these things for us. He also died to possess us so that our lives would now be devoted to doing good works that are according to the will of God!

1 PETER 4:1-4

As Peter wrote to persecuted Christians, he emphasized that they had spent enough time in their lives living according to fleshly desires. Now, it was time to live for the Lord! We must each evaluate whether we consider the time we have already spent living for our fleshly desires and ambitions to be sufficient. For those who recognize the grace available through Jesus, they will say, "Enough is enough!," and spend the rest of their lives focused on carrying out the will of King Jesus! Surrender your pursuit of worldly treasures for a pursuit of spiritual treasures (Matthew 6:19-21). Surrender your ungodly relationships for ones that would honor God (1 Corinthians 15:33). Surrender your pursuit of fleeting pleasures for pleasures that never fade (1 John 2:15-17).

CONCLUSION

Men in God's kingdom are men of surrender. Rather than demanding the things that interest and please themselves, they embrace the power of surrendering their lives to King Jesus. Being king of your own life has never and will never work. While it promises great things, it leads to disappointment and emptiness, and an eternity of separation from God in Hell. Only full and unconditional surrender to King Jesus will result in a truly meaningful life on this earth and eternal life in Heaven. Therefore, you must determine to bring your life to God's altar and present yourself as a living sacrifice that is surrendered to His will above your own!

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

What is the motivation for presenting yourself as a sacrifice to God?

What does it mean to present your body as a living sacrifice to God?

What can you learn about surrender from the fishermen who followed Jesus?

What can you learn about surrender from Paul in Galatians 2?

What can you learn about surrender from Paul in Philippians 3?

What is the proper response to the grace God has shown through Jesus?

Why should you consider the time you have already spent in sin to be enough?

What are things you should surrender to Jesus?

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