

The worship of surrender

Sunday, August 25 2019

From [Notes from John 12:23-32](#)

Introduction

- Been talking about worship
- Using the passage in [John 4:23-24](#) (ESV) (23) *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. (24) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*"
- Today I want to talk about the most powerful form of worship - the worship of surrender
- Giving praise is easy, but worship in Spirit and Truth is costly!

Context

- The teacher in me always wants to share the context
- It's especially important in this case - because Jesus' teaching is so hard!

In Jerusalem to die

- Chapter 11 - Triumphal entry
- Others don't understand why he'd go there - as the Jews were ready to kill him (see [John 11:53-54](#) (ESV) (53) *So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. (54) Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.*)
- He'd been hiding out in the wilderness
- Own disciples question him as he heads there

Before his teaching on bearing fruit

- In John 15:1-8 Jesus gives his *vine and branches* teaching - telling us that we are called to bear fruit - and measured by such
- Consider [John 15:5-8](#) (ESV) (5) *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the*

branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. (7) If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (8) By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

- This is important - because in this passage he's going to tell us how to bear fruit!

After his raising of Lazarus

- Biggest thing to remember: Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead
- See his message to Martha **John 11:25-26** (ESV) (25) *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*
- See his demonstration of power over death as he calls Lazarus from the grave: **John 11:38-44** (ESV) (38) *Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. (39) Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." (40) Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" (41) So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. (42) I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." (43) When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." (44) The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."*

Text

John 12:20-26 (ESV) (20) *Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. (21) So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." (22) Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. (23) And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (26) If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*

The call to surrender

Jesus is calling us to surrender our lives

- The summary of that passage - we must surrender our lives
- If anyone serves me - he must follow me! (V25)
- Jesus was heading to the cross - and so must we
- Spoken quite a bit about this

See *abide* from John 15 - we abide by going to / thru the cross with him

- See Jesus teaching about the vine/branches if we abide in him
- How can we abide, if we don't follow him to the cross
- He is the example of surrender
- This is spoken just before the cross!

See the warnings if we don't surrender

- Note there are consequences if we don't surrender
- See [John 12:25](#) (ESV) (25) *Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*
- See [John 15:6](#) (ESV) (6) *If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.*

Barriers to surrender

We can't surrender if we have no other life to live for

- If the only life we know is this life, we won't surrender
- We will do our best to hold on to this life
- **Self preservation!** - it's got its own name!
- But Christians have been born again and promised life eternal!

We won't surrender if our focus is wrong

- Too many believers are looking at the world with a macro lens
- Show pic of the falls - both from roughly the same spot
- Focus is different
- We've been called to *the falls* but all we see is the immediate flowers.
- This is the fruitlessness of the seed among thorns
- This is crippling the current generation of Christianity

We're unlikely to surrender if our theology is incorrect

- Surrender is only for the *uber-christian* (pastor, missionary, zealot, etc.)
- There is other ways to heaven
- I already have surrendered. **Note:** This is a trap - to look backward at where we've

already surrendered vs. forward to the cross. As long as I'm still alive - there's a place to surrender. **Second note:** This is a real danger in these last days!

The worship in surrender

Our faith is expressed in a tangible way

- We can profess our belief in God, his power and motive
- We can profess our belief in life eternal
- Only lip service unless it's backed up by obedience and surrender
- **Note:** The world is watching, and they won't really understand!

Our fruit brings Him glory

- Jesus promises that by surrendering, we will produce many seeds - not remaining alone (see [John 12:25](#) (ESV) (25) *Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*)
- When we bear fruit - it brings God is glorified [John 15:8](#) (ESV) (8) *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*
- Of course the greatest fruit is that we are able to love - and in so doing, God is manifest
- Others praise and worship him

Permits God to glorify you

- One other truth - God honors the one will will trust Him with surrender
- See [John 12:25-26](#) (ESV) (25) *Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.* (26) *If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*

The place of surrender

Maybe you're already there

- Maybe right now the Spirit is urging you to trust and surrender
- What are you praying about?
- What would happen if you prayed about it like Jesus did in the garden: *Not my will but thine be done?*

Aim for it

- Head to the cross
- Resolve to lay down your life
- Jesus deliberately headed for Jerusalem - so we must daily take up our cross and follow
- **Note:** Greatest worship - worship of surrender
- Immediately before our text the Greeks ask *We would see Jesus*
- Whole world looking for Jesus - let us die that he might be manifest



Specific call to action

- As we close - resolve to surrender
- Even today - look for a way to deliberately surrender and show His love!