

I surrender all

Mt 6:33-34.

Thesis: To motivate the church to give up all for Christ and be more devoted to Him.

1. At the end of WWII the Japanese Emperor made an agreement with the U.S. that ended the war. The terms of this agreement were simple, it was an unconditional surrender. In essence the Japanese were willing to surrender all to end the war.
2. Matthew 6:33-34, Jesus spoke of seeking first the Kingdom of God. For this to ever be truly accomplished, one has to surrender all to Jesus. But how do we do so?
3. How do we get to the point of truly seeking first the Kingdom of God, by surrendering all to Jesus? In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus tells us how we get to that point in our lives. In order to do so it requires me to change.
4. With this sermon I not only want to answer the question, “How do I surrender all to Jesus?”, but I also want to motivate each of us to be willing to do so.

I. I change my motivations for righteousness.

A. My motivations in giving (vs.1-4).

1. The key to the section (vs.1). These were abused by the Pharisees.
 - a. Jesus speaks of the motivations behind our service to God.
 - b. Righteousness/ alms (KJV) refers to religious obligations.
 - c. If the motivation behind these obligations is to be seen of men/ noticed by others, it is worthless in God’s sight. Not rewarded.
2. Our giving of alms/ charitable deeds speaks of our obligations toward our fellow man.
 - a. Giving to those in need is an obligation. True Christians do not wait to be commanded but seek the opportunity (Gal 2:10; Jm 1:27).
3. Our giving is not to be broadcast to all rather it is to be in secret (vs.2-3).
 - a. Not every good work is to be kept secret (Mt 5:16).
4. Good deeds done in secret will be rewarded by God when they have the right motivation behind them (vs.4; 2 Cor 9:7).

B. My motivations in prayer (vs.5-15).

1. Once again Jesus attacks the motives behind ones actions.
 - a. The place of prayer is not condemned but the motivations behind it are.
 - b. Prayer is not to be for show (vs.5).

2. Prayer speaks of our obligations toward God.
 - a. Prayer is a special way in which we can commune with God.
 - b. Prayer is the opportunity to pour our hearts out to God (Phil 4:6).
3. Prayer that carries with it the right motives will be rewarded by God (vs.6).
4. Prayer is not an occasion to inform God of our needs as if He did not hear us.
 - a. God already knows (vs.7-8).
 - b. Prayer is a time to express our faith in God.

C. My motivation in fasting (vs. 16-18).

1. Fasting was a very common religious practice among the Jews.
 - a. It was never directly commanded by God.
 - b. But with the examples given throughout the Bible it is implied it will be done (vs.16-17). Note: When you fast.
2. Fasting speaks of our obligations toward self-control.
 - a. It was a big part of Jewish religious life and part of the early church. (Acts 13:1-3, 14:21-23; Ezra 8:21,23).
 - b. This was done as a part of personal devotion and self-control (Psa 35:13; 69:10).
3. Once again Jesus warns against having the wrong motives for such personal devotion and self-control (vs.16-17).
 - a. Some would neglect personal hygiene or cover themselves in ashes for all to see their personal devotion and the fact they were fasting.
 - b. Instead Jesus says the proper expression of devotion was to be secretly from the heart and thus rewarded by God (vs. 18).

II. I change my focus.

A. My focus upon material possessions (vs.19-21).

1. This is not a prohibition against personal wealth. Instead we should not have the wrong view toward it.
 - a. Riches/ wealth referred to anything one had in abundance that made life more comfortable. Gold, oil, clothing, food, etc. . .
2. Do not trust in wealth because it can and will perish (vs.19).
3. Instead we should prefer Heavenly treasures (vs. 20; 1 Tim 6:17-19).
4. Ultimately the object of our greatest interest will become our god (vs.21).

B. My eye must be focused (vs.22-23).

1. The eye is the only part of the body that allows light in. Jesus is talking about what we are allowing into our minds.
2. A good eye will see clearly and not be focused upon more than one thing.

3. In connection with (vs.19-21) the one who lays up heavenly treasures has a good/ clear eye. The one who does not is evil.
4. So I must have a heavenly focus in life, by filling my heart and mind with the right things (Phi 4:8-9).

C. My focus cannot be divided (vs.24).

1. How true this is. No one can render complete devotion to two masters.
 - a. The very act of obeying one leads to disobedience of the other.
2. If we seek to love and serve God and love and serve riches/ material possessions at the same time our loyalty will become bitterly divided.
3. Our hearts loyalty must solely be focused upon God.

III. I change my worries to trust. Jesus gives us four reasons to trust.

A. Because life is more (vs. 25).

1. The service of riches and material possessions (mammon) leads to worry.
The service of God leads to peace.
2. Jesus says we are not to be overly concerned about the necessities of life.
When we do, it becomes distrust in God.
3. We are not to worry about these things because life is more than these necessities (Rom 8:31-32).

B. Because He will provide (vs.26, 28-30).

1. Jesus uses several illustrations from nature. Birds and flowers.
 - a. God provides food for the birds.
 - b. God provides covering for the flowers.
2. Each of these things cannot place its trust in God nor provide in any way for itself. Yet God provides adequately for them in the way He has appointed.
3. If God provides for nature, how much more will He do so for the disciple who puts their trust in Him?

C. Because worry changes nothing (vs. 27).

1. In reality what does my continued worry accomplish and change? Nothing.
2. Jesus reminds us we cannot change things with undue worry.
3. When we trust in God, God takes care of us.

D. Because I will put faith to the test (vs.31-32).

1. I put faith to the test by trusting in God and not worrying about life (Psa 34:8).
2. I give my cares and worries to God and allow Him to take care of it(1Pt 5:6-7).

3. Not only is God wise enough to know what our needs are, but He is good enough supply them, powerful enough to do so and since He has promised, we can trust Him.

IV. I change my priorities .

A. The priority of the Kingdom (vs.33).

1. There is nothing we have to do in this life to get by that will need to interfere with our work in the Kingdom of God.
 - a. More than anything else it is a matter of priorities.
2. Seek: to search for, to strive to aim.
 - a. So we strive, aim to put the kingdom of God first in our lives and the righteousness (purity) of life that comes with being a part of this Kingdom.
 - b. We strive to make God's ways our ways.
3. God's Kingdom and my place in it has to be top priority for me to surrender all to Christ.

B. The priority of tomorrow (vs.34).

1. When it comes to the future, our worries should not be about tomorrow and the troubles of it.
2. Jesus reminds us once again of the folly of worry.
 - a. Tomorrow can always worry about itself.
 - b. When we place tomorrow's worries upon us today we unnecessarily add to the burdens of today.
3. So do not worry about tomorrow. Why?
 - a. God will provide vs. 25ff.
 - b. God is in control (Dan 4:17).

Conclusion:

1. Surrendering all to Christ. How do I do it?
2. I surrender all to Christ when I change my . . .
 - A. motivations for righteousness. B. focus. C. worries to trust. D. priorities.
3. When I surrender all to Jesus, I no longer have room for any of these other things in my life, such as improper motives, misdirected focus, worry.
4. Surrendering all to Christ is something that has to be done. Have you surrendered all to Him?