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# Only Jesus

## Part 2 - I Surrender All

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We follow Jesus to be with Him, so we might become like Him.

### Shortcuts

The 10,000 hour principle: if you spend 10,000 hours on something, you'll become an expert on it.

It's 1250 working days (8 hours), so 5 years on the job of honing your skills. Provided you have the grit to stick to it...

Think about your life – what are you 'best' at? How good are you compared to the best at it? How long have you spent at it? Could you spend more time? Sleep doesn't count – I know some experts on that!

### The Cost of Commitment

When we commit to something, we have to give up some of the things that we want to do. It costs something to make a commitment to something.

### Commitment to Jesus

"I surrender all" or "I surrender some"?

- + Convenience is warring with obedience.
- + Comfort and commitment are battling one another.
- + Discipleship is the road less travelled, but we don't travel anymore, it seems...

**Pete Greig** (from *How To Pray*):

*“We love to speak of the kingdom without ever really wanting to surrender anything costly to its King. Our time, our money, our sexual ethics, our achievements, our dreams for our lives are all resolutely ‘ours’. Personal surrender and costly sacrifice are rare. The kingdom of God is an unthreatening, ephemeral concept, a vaguely and pleasantly desirable future prospect, not the kind of concrete present reality that grazes our knees as we relinquish everything we cherish to its King.”*

Matthew 6:33

## **The Pathway to Seeking the Kingdom**

Mark 12:28

Thankfully, Jesus clarifies it even more – and I think explains what to do with those pesky things that get in the way...

## **Jesus Escalates Things**

*“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”* – Luke 9:23-26 (ESV)

## **Concrete Reality**

Jesus escalates things... It's like the external concrete things of the Old Testament law are now all soft and internal.

But that's not true – Jesus just makes us realise that truly what we think, see and do is driven by our internal reality; the place where God takes up residence, and the place that we battle and wrestle with Him.

Jesus says deny yourself. Lose your life. Give it all up.

Does that mean physically die? In some places, yes. In ours, probably no.

Luke 9:26: 'ashamed' – to experience a painful feeling or sense of loss of status because of a particular event or activity (BDAG)

There's a deep need for each of us to really seek Jesus, to ask Him, what does it look like for me to deny myself? What is it you're calling me to die to in my life – practically – what needs to stop, to cease, to end in my life, to be buried and never dug up?

## **Practicing Surrender**

I don't want to paint a picture of the perfect Christian life and then expect us to try to work our way there. That's not how this thing works.

When we surrender everything to Jesus, then we find breakthrough

## **How do we surrender?**

Philippians 2:1-4

What does surrender look like? Seeking the kingdom first: this re-prioritises our agenda, our decisions, in line with the things of God.

Philippians 2:5-11

## **Application**

Jesus, what do I need to let die in my life? Where do I need to deny myself? What do I need to surrender to you?

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**Pray:** “Jesus, I choose to give this to you today. I choose to let this die, and to seek you first.”

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What are you an expert on in your life? What would others say you are an expert on?
2. Have you even taken stock of the hours you spend on different activities each day? If you were to do it, where are you investing your time? Where would you like to invest your time?
3. What have you given up (sacrificed) at various times in your life to prioritise something else?
4. How or where does God factor into the above areas? Is your relationship something that you make sacrifices for? If He were to do an inventory of your life, how would you feel?
5. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and follow Him, to give the entirety of our lives to Him, to die to ourselves. What does that mean to you, and what does/could that look like in your life?
6. Philippians 2:1-11 shows us the how and why. Read through the passage and see what you could change about how you could display the heart of Jesus in your relationships.
7. Take some time to pray: “Jesus, what do I need to let die in my life? Where do I need to deny myself? What do I need to surrender to you?” Then spend some time giving that over to Him.
8. On the other side of dying to yourself and living whole-hearted for Jesus, what would it look like for you to intentionally steward your gifts, purpose and/or calling towards self-mastery, and so increased fruitfulness in the kingdom?