

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises, Fairest Lord Jesus, Magnificent

WELCOME

True Christian. How would you describe a true Christian with at least 3 non-negotiable characteristics?

WORD

MARK 8:34–37

³⁴ And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

'Entitlement mentality' is a serious problem of many. By nature, we are self-centered people. We believe we that privileges are our rights and we expect benefits from them as if it were our human rights. To overcome this entitlement mentality, we must learn to be grateful for the privileges we receive. We must be willing to surrender our rights to God who gives us the privileges we enjoy.

When we find it too difficult to surrender our rights to God, an underlying deeper problem might be that we have not yet truly surrendered our life to Him. So how exactly do we surrender our rights to God?

SURRENDER ALL TO FOLLOW JESUS

Jesus never made it easy for anyone to become His disciples. If you want to **follow Him** you must **deny yourself**, and **take up your own cross** (Mark 8:34).

The command to deny one's self is a one-time decision of complete surrender to Him. It means to surrender the full control of your life to Jesus. The other command of taking up your cross means it is no longer you but Christ who reigns in your life. Dying to self is also a one-time decision. After which, you are on your way of following Christ day by day, moment by moment. This is what defines a true Christian.

When you know that Jesus died on the cross for all of your sins, the grateful response is to surrender your life to Him and follow Him. From this day, you are to die to your own will, desires, personal choices and opinions. You are now committing to follow Jesus; to be what He wants you to be, and to go where He wants you to go. Jesus is not just a Savior but also the Lord of your life.

But Jesus will never ask us to do something He does not model himself. He did the same thing – denied Himself, took up His cross, and followed the will of God the Father (**Philippians 2:5–8**). Jesus, the second person of the Holy Trinity, emptied Himself, took the likeness of a man, and gave up His rights for justice and the right to be duly respected.

You will never surrender your rights for respect, inheritance, privacy, choice, or comfort until you have fully surrendered the ownership of your whole entire life to Jesus. When you do this, you will realize that you actually do not have any rights. Because He owns everything, there won't be space to complain or grumble about anything. All sense of entitlement becomes merely perceived rights for even the right to live comes from God.

If you really want to experience true life, there is no other way but to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus (**Mark 8:34–35**). When you lose your life for God's sake, it is then that you will find it.

THE STORY OF NAAMAN

Naaman was a good man, highly respected, wealthy, influential, a valiant warrior. But the Bible tells us that he had a problem – he was a leper (**2 Kings 5:1**). Leprosy, in their time, was an incurable disease.

His story makes us realize that no matter how powerful or wealthy we are, we have limitations. Many times we think we are in control but God will allow difficult things to happen to us because He loves us and He wants us to have the opportunity of fully surrendering our life to Him. In Naaman's case, it is by having leprosy that he came to realize his need for God.

WORD (cont'd)

He was sent to the prophet Elisha to get his leprosy healed. But the prophet did not give him any special treatment. Instead, Elisha sent back Naaman's servant with instructions for the valiant warrior to go in the Jordan river and wash himself seven times to be healed (v.10)

Naturally, Naaman was angry, feeling that he was not respected. Besides, he thought, there were better rivers in his place compared to the dirty Jordan River. So he turned away and left. But he was intercepted by his servants who told him that if Elisha's command was something great, then why not just follow it (v.13)? So, Naaman decided to surrender his rights and humbled himself. He followed Elisha's instruction (v.14). Lo and behold, he got healed from leprosy with a new skin like a baby.

But the most amazing thing that happened to Naaman was coming to believe in the God of Israel

(v.15). Because he had a true encounter with God, he was not only healed physically but also spiritually.

In Naaman's gratitude, he became generous. He offered gifts to Elisha but the prophet refused to accept anything from him (v.16). Elisha did not want Naaman to think that the blessing of salvation is possible because of money. However, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, wanted to serve his rights of receiving the offering of Naaman (v. 19-20) even to the point of telling lies. For this attitude, he ended-up cursed with leprosy (v. 27).

Remember, true life begins for those who not only surrender their rights and their entire life to God but also turn away from other gods and idols in order to follow God.

God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him. – Andrew Murray

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Profit and Loss.** What is the cost of following Jesus according to **Mark 8:24-27**?
- 2. I Surrender All.** When did you fully surrender your life to Jesus? What did it cost you to surrender everything?
- 3. Humilimeter.** How can you improve as a true follower of Christ to 3 groups of people closest to you?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

How can you apply the discussion today about "surrendering your rights" to your PCS in action? Perhaps your name list can include difficult people to apply pray, care and share in action.

| Name List & Relationship | Pray | Care | Share | Actions Done This Week |
|--------------------------|------|------|-------|------------------------|
| 1. | | | | |
| 2. | | | | |
| 3. | | | | |
| 4. | | | | |
| 5. | | | | |

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends