

Week 3 Brainstorming Notes – Monday, March 2, 2009

Luke 9:23-25

Jesus bore His own cross. We bear ours with Jesus' help. What is "our cross"? Who are you following?

Surrender clip from Bruce Almighty – getting hit by truck as he surrenders – authentic and funny.

Can you surrender your issues and objections to Jesus and the Bible? Can you "deny self"? Where do we celebrate "denying self" in American Culture? Where do we celebrate "dying to self"? How do we move Jesus from "Savior" to "Lord"?

Jesus surrendered his will at Gethsemane...we are just asked to do what he did. But the disciples were sleeping.

Jesus asks us, invites us, to join the revolution of unfairness with him. Take the next step, with his perspective, with him, to provide grace to others. (Philippians 2)

What does "surrender" really look like? Do you have a personal example of your own experiences of surrender? How do you "give up control?"

Book – Failure of Nerve by Edwin Freidman states we are addicted to data and certainty.

Surrender is risky. How much do we risk?

People need to know whom they are surrendering to.

Jesus is God. Jesus clearly declared himself to be God. Luke 4: 17-21. Pharisees' reaction showed Jesus blasphemed.

Pete's confession Luke 9:18-20 "You are the Christ of God".

What is your level of risk? The more we risk the more God moves.

The church has historically preached a controlled, secure Jesus. "Come to church to be secure". Denominations break into different pieces to make Jesus even more predictable. Jesus is NOT predictable.

St. Patrick's approach to evangelize Ireland by loving them and challenging them if they were ready to die" and not letting them into core fellowship until "they were ready to die". We make faith too easy.

What are our humble; sold out, gut wrenching times of surrender? Jesus wants all of us, ready to die. What are we willing to sacrifice? How?

Daily decision to see, accept, be available to God's will. Death is not to be feared. "Death is gain". European context of death is to be feared, pushed away, run from. "Death" is a passage to eternal existence. Death is to be embraced.

Last week, God running to us. What "dying" looks like? Feels like disconnect.

Not being in pain or suffering, not discomfort, not working all the time but freedom of living with Jesus in His will. Example....over time....of how surrender brings gain.

Examples of marriage surrender, career surrender, being open to God's choices for us out of "awe and wonder" and relationships instead of coercion, submitting reluctantly.

Celebrate the heart and process of surrender instead of what you surrender (which becomes competitive rules). Surrender is both hard and good. Receiving love is surrender as well. God doesn't fix things by fixing them but by surrender. "The key to knowledge" Jesus claims the Pharisees "took away" is surrender. "Surrender" is "giving in to God" versus "giving up" Surrender is always associated with humiliation and loss in our culture. How make surrender strong?

Surrender is a mindset, selling to let God lead. Refer back to Prayer Prompt for week 3, where you are reluctant to trust?

Be the surrendered person, to let people see it, feel it, be struck by your own surrender. Let the Holy Spirit set the seed and grow it. Surrender yourself, your assumptions of Jesus, one step at a time. i.e.

"I've always assumed you (Jesus) were never to be trusted. I surrender that, and I want to trust You!"

Fear is the opposition to surrender.

Luke 20, 20-25, we give to God all of ourselves because we are “pressed” with the image of God. Give all we have and are for the glory of God. I/we need to RE-surrender daily.

We are all addicts to ourselves, careers, relationships, we need to surrender and surrender again. Luke 12:22: “Do not worry” example of how to counteract fear and to seek God to replace worry and fear. God not only claims “our stuff” but “ourselves”. “Clean House” (TV show) is about the stuff that prevents life.

“Repentance” we often believe is “never ever doing bad again”, but “surrender” is continually being eager to “see God” know it’s an ongoing need. It’s like being nicked by razor and bleeding all over, uncomfortable and open, daily.