

# Submission

MARK 8:34-37

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES SERIES

# **SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES SERIES**

**1 DEVOTIONS**

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**5 STUDY**

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# THE JOURNEY OF SUBMISSION

Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” he said. **“You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”**

MARK 8:31-33

# THE JOURNEY OF SUBMISSION

Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said,  
“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it.

But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

MARK 8:34-37

# THE JOURNEY OF SUBMISSION

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW WE SEE THINGS, AND HOW GOD SEES THINGS.

A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT IS ON EARTH AND WHAT IS IN HEAVEN.

THE EXTENT THAT WE KNOW AND EMBRACE THE DIFFERENCE IS THE EXTENT THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

# THE JOURNEY OF SUBMISSION

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

PS 139:23-24

**What is  
submission?**

# WHAT IS SUBMISSION

**“ ... the action of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another person”**

**Submit yourselves, then, to God...**

**JAMES 4:7A**

# THE BEGINNING

And the LORD God commanded the man,

“You are free to eat  
from any tree in the garden;

but you

**must not eat**

from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,

for when you eat from it  
you will certainly die.”

God only gave  
Adam only **ONE**  
boundary that he  
must submit to

GEN 2:16-17

# THE BEGINNING

And the LORD God commanded the man,

“You are free to eat  
from any tree in the garden;

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from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,

for when you eat from it  
**you will certainly die.”**

To show in the midst of  
all of God's creation  
and blessing, whether  
God is still God

GEN 2:16-17

# JOURNEY AWAY FROM SUBMISSION

When the woman  
saw that the fruit of the tree was  
good for food and  
pleasing to the eye, and also  
desirable for gaining wisdom,  
she took some and **ate** it.

She also gave some to her husband,  
who was with her,  
and he **ate** it.



Saw  
Good  
Pleasing  
Desirable  
Took  
Ate

GEN 3:6

# JOURNEY AWAY FROM SUBMISSION

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and **ate** it.

She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he **ate** it.

**Do I need to resist God for my own happiness?**

GEN 3:6

# THE RESULT

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

But the LORD God called to the man,  
“**Where are you?**”

GEN 3:8-9

**The responsibility for the boundary God set was Adam's**

**But he chose to obey God's blessing to him (as his helper) instead of obeying God**

**Sometimes, God's blessing becomes our God**

# THE PATTERN

The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry?

Why is your face downcast?

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?

But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

GEN 4:4-7

# THE EXAMPLE

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him,  
“Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac.

GEN 22:1-3

# THE EXAMPLE

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him.

Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, **even though** God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted."

Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again

HEB 11:17-19

# THE LORD SPEAKS

Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:

“Who is this that questions my wisdom  
with such ignorant words?

Brace yourself like a man,  
because I have some questions for you,  
and you must answer them.

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?  
Tell me, if you know so much.

JOB 38:1-4

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JOB 38:1-4

**if our submission to God is based on our understanding  
and evaluation, we may totally miss the mark**

# OUR LORD JESUS

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Though he was God, he did not think of **equality with God** as something to cling to.

Instead, he gave up his **divine privileges**; he took the humble position of a **slave** and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

**Jesus submitted His**

**Status**

**Privilege**

**Position / Vocation**

**Dignity**

**Life**

PHIL 2:5-8

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**In the Garden of Gethsamane**

**Jesus said  
“Not my will...  
but Yours”**

**PHIL 2:5-8**

# WHAT ABOUT US?

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’”

MARK 10:17-19

## WHAT ABOUT US?

“Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him.

“There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him.

“Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

MARK 10:20-22

# WHAT ABOUT US?

We can be spiritually experienced, even impressive,  
and yet be unsubmitted to God

Would we dare to ask Jesus the same question?

If we ask, He may tell us...

... that thing that has a hold on us that prevents us  
from gaining eternal life

# WHAT IS OUR "ONE THING"?

What are the things that are the place of our wrestling?

Who will win and who will submit?

**Lifestyle and Money**

**Career and Significance**

**Children and Relationships**

**Comfort and Control**

**Fears and Anxieties**

**Offence and Bitterness**

etc

*What is the Lord gently saying to us today?*

# OUR LORD JESUS

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PHIL 2:9-11

**In our surrender and submission,  
God is greatly glorified**

# RESPONSE

- What is the Lord highlighting today as He searches our hearts?
- What is our One Thing that is in the place of our submission?  
Where do we need to know and trust God more?
- Would we come to lay it all down once again, to welcome Him as Savior and Lord of our lives?
- Where is the Lord bringing us into greater freedom, worship and abundant life today?

# QUESTIONS

- Read Mark 8:31-37 and Phil 2:5-11 from the perspective of submission to God. What is Jesus' instruction and example?
- What are some things where we are wrestling with God?
- What are some barriers for us to submit to Him?
- Where do we need to acknowledge our weakness and embrace Him as our Lord and Savior?
- What is our One Thing that God is highlighting today?