

THRESHOLDS

3- Can I trust You?

Surrender

8/22/24

Threshold:

1. the sill of a doorway
2. any place or point of entering or beginning
3. the point at which a stimulus is of sufficient intensity to begin to produce an effect

Opposition:

- The world wants to control you...
- The enemy wants to corrupt you...
- You want to be the center of the universe...

Thresholds:

1. Belief: Is there a God?
2. Salvation: Can I be forgiven?

Introduction:

I was just telling somebody this story this week. Years ago, when I was in college and helping with a youth group in Bartlesville, OK, there was a concert that we were taking a bunch of teens and sponsors to in Tulsa which was only about 45 minutes away. We had 4 white church vans- those 15 seat ones, all pretty much identical and I was driving the third one in line. I had been to Tulsa a few times and I was pretty sure I knew where we were going but we are all going to just follow the lead van. When we hit Tulsa things got a little real if you know what I mean! One, Tulsa freeways and bypasses are ALWAYS under construction, Second, it was dark; and Third I had a van full of quiet and meek teens...ya, no. I'm also fairly famous in small circles about talking and driving. And what I mean by that is I can drive straight very well while having a conversation. But turning and getting off exits during a good talk is a stretch for me. But I'm just following the van in front of me. We were weaving through traffic and talking and weaving and talking when suddenly I looked around and we are in old downtown Tulsa. I thought, "where is the guy in front taking us?" I had my answer soon when we came to a stoplight and I realized I was

following the wrong van...and I had no idea for how long. But I wasn't alone, the church van behind me had done a better job following, I had just done a bad job leading! We were a smidge late for the concert, end of story.

Jesus invites us to follow Him. But it's not so easy, and we can get distracted, and maybe we don't pay attention enough, and maybe even we don't think it's really that important.

This week we are exploring the third threshold and it's called SURRENDER.

What does a surrendered life look like? Say this with me
TRUST-OBEY-FOLLOW *O my son, give me your heart. May your eyes take delight in following my ways. (Proverbs 23:26 NLT)*

TRUST-OBEY-FOLLOW To understand this let's work on it backwards:

Following Jesus: this is where He wants us and where we thrive.

1. **Come follow me...** (Matt 9:9 to Mathew: "*come follow me and be my disciple*")
2. **Walk in the light as He is in the light...** ("*I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.*" (John 8:12 NLT))
3. **Be imitators of Christ...** (Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. (Ephesians 5:2 NLT))
4. **We follow Jesus' character and convictions**
5. **We follow Jesus through death and into new life**

Obedience: this is the first step over the threshold.

1. Letting Jesus lead (can be hard)
2. The first acts of surrender occur at this threshold
3. Beginning to embrace "Thy will be done" as our hope and joy

Trust: this is the fundamental issue of surrender and why we wrestle with it.

1. There is no following Jesus without obedience
2. There is no obedience without trust
3. Trust is the foundation of Faith
4. **Can I trust Him?** Maybe I have trust issues, maybe I just chafe at leaning on anyone, my fears and anxieties overtake my faith.
5. ***Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you. (Psalms 9:10 NLT)***

Do you know Jesus? Or just about Jesus? There's a difference. **If you knew the goodness of God, the grace of Jesus, and the purpose of the Holy Spirit...you'd be quicker to trust.**

Let me give you a little help in how to trust. You know that phrase, "I trust you with my whole...spleen?". No, lungs? No, big toe?? No, not even my mind. My mind is conflicted. My mind is chaotic and confused. No, we say "I trust you with my whole heart." You see, we KNOW that surrender is a heart issue. It's a love issue.

***Surrender isn't about giving up;
it's about giving over to Someone greater than yourself who loves you.***

Even Jesus surrendered...

*They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. **Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.**" (Mark 14:32-36 NLT)*

Surrender is a high call:

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, 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, you will save it. (Luke 9:23-24 NLT)

We struggle at the Threshold of Surrender. I think this is such a crucial but difficult step of faith.

1. It fights everything inside of us and everything we've been taught by this world. Our personalities, our past traumas, our past role models...
2. It isn't a single threshold. There are a number of surrender moments. Some are big milestones in your life that you will never forget. They've shaped you. But most are small surrenders throughout your day.

I've stated that these thresholds are contingent upon those prior. They are

each necessary and they follow an order. This is where our pride and vanity become stumbling blocks. But this is also why this threshold comes after the Threshold of Salvation and must always lay in the shadow of the Cross. Humility is the primary prerequisite for repentance and forgiveness. How can we stand at the foot of the Cross with any pride or selfishness. This is where Jesus, the Son of God, died for MY sins. He took my shame and my punishment.

In the light of the Cross, surrender does not seem to be such a hard thing. But what if we walk away from that Cross? We drift further from the Good News and our own salvation, we get numb to its power...and then our independent streak, our selfishness, creeps back in.

But here is the Good News for us stubborn, easily distracted people who think we know where we are going: We can get back on track by going back to the Cross. And from there we can see the path of Jesus more clearly...and we can follow Him back to this threshold of surrender.

We sing the song, "I surrender all", but what do we mean exactly?

- We surrender our understanding, and trust in God's wisdom.
- We surrender our plans, and trust in God's providence.
- We surrender our independence, and trust in the Kingdom of God.
- We surrender our hurts, and trust in God's consolation.
- We surrender our scars, and trust in God's healing.

Do you know Jesus? Are you ready to trust Him? Are you ready to obey Him in your life?

Do you need to surrender to Jesus this morning?

Sing: I Surrender All