

JTatum

Intro.

- A. When we hear the words, “*I surrender*” certain thoughts immediately come into our mind.
1. There has been some argument, strong difference of opinion, or an all out battle going on.
 2. On Apr. 9, 1865, a surrender was signed by Gen. R.E.Lee, to Gen. U.S.Grant at the Appomattox Court House, VA, action bring the Civil War to a close, and ending slavery in our nation.
 3. The words, *I give up... I surrender...I quit...* suggest ending of a battle by one side who then becomes submissive to the opposing side.
- B. The idea of a surrender of our lives to God spiritually is a serene and sacred description of submitting our will to God.
1. Listen to **Lk. 14:33.....Lk. 9:23**
 2. In **Mt. 10:37** Jesus demanded preference over family members (c. **Mt. 6:33**)
 3. **Lk. 14:28**, one has to count the cost of discipleship, & be willing to pay the price (c. **Mt. 19:21f**)
- C. Is the price is too much for those who want to serve the Lord??? **Phil. 3:8** (ESV) - I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.
1. Some have paid that price, & if we do, won't be by ourselves!
 2. Others have not been as willing?----- How about Y-O-U ???

Discuss.**I. SURRENDER: (some who have).**

- A. Think of some who have *given up* so many things to serve the Lord:
1. Abraham – (homeland, **Gen. 12:1-6 Gen. 22**)& even his *only begotten* son, Isaac, **Heb. 11:17**)
 2. Moses – (position & pleasures in Pharaoh's palace, **Ex. 2:9-10& Heb. 11:24**)
 3. Barnabas -- (forfeited lands **Ac. 4:36f** becoming an apostle of the Lord & co-worker with Paul
 4. (Paul – previously mentioned, **Phil. 3:8**) ↳ **Ac. 14:14; 15:25f**
- B. If you ever feel that you are being called upon to surrender too much, to give up more than your fair share...
1.remember many who have surrendered ALL in times past.
 2.remember the excellent example of the sacrifice of our Savior (**Phil. 2:5-8**)
 3. Nothing we might ever give up in this life for Christ can be compared to what we will receive in the world to come, **Mt. 16:26**

II. OBEY.

- A. There is a very important distinction that need to be understood between *the desire to serve God* and the *necessity of obeying Him*.
1. **1 Sam. 15:22** – *to obey is better than sacrifice...*
 2. Jesus plain stated, *If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love...* **Jn. 15:10 (Jn. 14:15)**
- B. In G.A. article, “*Serving God, Not Obeying Him*” by David Lipscomb in 1897, certain implications noted
1. From **Mt. 15:9** – “*If men teach as part of the doctrine or service of “God a thing commanded by men, it invalidates all the service he renders to God, [including]all that he does that God commands...*”
 2. A person becomes incapable of true worship if he chooses to fashion his offering to his personal choice.
 - a. This was the heart of the problem with Cain's unaccepted sacrifice.
 - b. Only God's mandate for worship hits the mark, & our responsibility is to *aim to please God* **2 Co 5:9**
 3. Remember, Peter & the apostles said, *We ought to obey God rather than men*, **Ac. 5:29**
- C. Lipscomb observed, “Many are willing to serve God, to worship Him, but are not willing to do what he requires...”
1. This = most dangerous form of disobedience, because those serving deceive themselves.
 2. King Saul might be referred as the poster-child for this way of worship:
 - a. **1 Sam. 15:1-3** God commanded the destruction of Amalek: king, people, everything.
 - b. Saul greeted Samuel saying, *I have performed the commandment of the Lord*, **vs. 13**
 - c. Samuel pointed out that the facts denied Saul's obedience, **vs. 14**
 - d. **vs. 9** points out that *all that was good* was saved, & all that was *despised & worthless* was destroyed!
 - e. Whose standards were used to assess these values (c. **Prov. 3:7**)
 3. Samuel's response to Saul is recorded in **1 Sam. 15:22-23a** and is echoed again in **Mt. 7:21-22**.

Concl.

III. SERVE

- A. Genuine service – the likes with which God is always please – is pure & unadulterated, unaltered, & uncompromised (c. **Dan. 6:16, 20**)
1. Kg. Darius had been tricked into signing an irrevocable Medo-Persian decree forbidding any person to ask a request of any god or man for 30 days; violators would be put into a den of lions.
 2. Even knowing of the law, Daniel continued praying to God (with windows opened) **vs. 10**
 3. You know that God closed the lions mouths & spared His servant Daniel.
 4. Kg. Darius, called out to Daniel , *Is your God, who **you serve continually**, able to deliver you from the lions?*
- B. When one really & truly surrenders to God
1. Faithful & full obedience is not an option or a burden.
 2. Sincere service is not as sincere as it claims to be...
 - a. if the servant has not fully surrendered his will to the Lord's, unconditionally
 - b. & if he or she is unwilling to obey God according to Divine instruction, & not man's whims
- C. Invitation song: **All To Jesus I Surrender**