

“Surrender” // Joshua 5:13–15 // All-In

Introduction

You guys ready for this? This is the week we’ve been waiting for—as God brings to fruition this 5 week journey we’ve been on asking God to show us what it means to go all-in for his mission. I am your pastor, which means I am supposed to be your leader, but honestly, through these 5 weeks, hearing your stories, how you’ve processed this—in many ways you’ve led me. I have been so inspired and moved by your sacrifices and willingness.

Of course, I can’t think of a more unfortunate current event to bring our All-In series to a conclusion than what happened this week (and I have to at least acknowledge this) with our CIA director, General Petraeus, who resigned because of an affair he had with the lady writing his biography, Paula Broadwell. The name of his biography? *All-In*. I saw that on Friday and thought, *Seriously?*

All-In for us is quite different. I was asking some of our pastors what would make a good opening story and one of them said, “Tell the story of when you were a soccer coach.” I said, “I’ve told that before.” He responded:” A. There’s over 2000 people that weren’t here the last time you told that.” And B. “90% of what you say they forget anyway and I haven’t heard it in a while and so I’m sure they don’t remember.” So, here goes.

- “*Do it legally.*” (abbreviated version)

All-In is a call for you not to be a spectator with the mission of this church, but to go all-in with it. To be a follower, not a fan. And in it we’ve included a new approach to giving ... rather than 3 different ways we have one fund that represents the totality of what God has called us to do as a church and we’ve asked you, if you consider this to be your church, to go all-in with it.

- If you are new here, and you’re still checking things out, I’m not talking to you. I hope from this series you can glean what this church is all about to help you decide if this is a church you want to be a part of.
- And, of course, I know we have many who come on the weekends who aren’t Christians yet—you’re just kind of checking Christianity in general—and so of course things like this card and our mission are a little premature for you. Christianity starts with a relationship with God, and what you do for God flows out of that relationship. That relationship with God is not grounded on what you do for him, but receiving what he’s done for you, and so we’d invite you to study the relationship with God that he offers.

We’ve been looking at 5 characters in the Hebrew Bible who went all in on the mission of God. Today is our 5th and final one. This has been a challenging series, and I know it’s been a lot for you, but this is the week we’ve been waiting for! I promise next week to start a new touchy-feely series about... your needs or whatever.

Joshua 5:13–15

In Joshua 5, Moses has died and the mantle of leadership has fallen to Joshua. Joshua is tasked with leading Israel into the Promised Land, and his first major challenge is Jericho, the most fortified city in the world. This scene here in Joshua 5 takes place on the eve of that battle.

Now, as you can imagine, Joshua is pretty nervous.

- War is imminent. Israel is armed and ready to fight.

- This is Joshua’s first true moment of leadership.
- So, understandably, he is having a little trouble sleeping
- ...and so he goes out and takes a walk; out late at night, all by himself. He’s killing time. Probably praying.

[5:13] *When Joshua was by Jericho*, That word “by Jericho,” in Hebrew indicates that Joshua had snuck right up to the walls of the city. It literally says, “When he was “at Jericho.”¹

...he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”

- Now, first, can we acknowledge (?)—Joshua is a man’s man He’s right by the enemy wall and he encounters a strange man in the dark with his sword drawn.
- A lesser man, like me, would have hightailed it out of there... but not Joshua. Joshua goes over challenges the guy to a fight.
- Write this in your Bible: Joshua is the Chuck Norris of Israel.

And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” [14] And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come.”

- “Uhhh... No”? Did Joshua ask him a “yes/no” question? “Hey, what’s your name?” No. Oh, ok, sorry.
- “No” means: you’re asking the wrong question.
- The question is not, “Am I on your side, Joshua, but are you on my side?”

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?” [15] And the commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

OK, 1st of all, who is this that Joshua encounters? Well, a few clues: **1:** he’s called the commander of the Lord; **2:** Joshua worships this guy without being rebuked, which you’re not allowed to do to an angel; **3:** He’s referred to as “the Lord” in the next chapter (6:2).

- This is what theologians call a “**theophany**,” or an Old Testament, pre-nativity appearance of God in human form. This is Jesus.

You’re getting a glimpse of Jesus before he shows up in a manger in Bethlehem. **Several key things about our relationship to him.**

There has always been just one way to follow Jesus, and relate to him, whether Old Testament or new, and this is it. **4 things—these are so important.**

Jesus invites us...

1. ...To Surrender

- He doesn’t come as someone to get onto our side; he comes as one to whom we surrender.
- A lot of us, at some point, realize that God needs to be a part of our lives. We certainly don’t want him to be our adversary. We need him in our family; we need him because things in life are overwhelming us; or when we die we don’t want to go to hell.

¹ "The preposition here is ב [bi], commonly translated “in.” But the preposition also frequently means “at” (HALOT 104), and “at Jericho” fits the scenario easily: Joshua was somewhere near it, not within its walls (cf. 6:1, which says that Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites)." D. M. Howard, Jr., *Vol. 5: Joshua*, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998), 155–156.

- So when we come to God we want to know, “How much do I have to do, and what do I have to do, to get you on my side?” Our questions are things like, “*How much do I have to give you? How much do I have to go to church? How well do I have to keep the commandments?*”
- This is a completely wrong way of approaching Jesus for two reasons.
 1. You can never bargain your way into salvation. You can never do enough. The gospel is that you could never be good enough to earn God’s love. It was something Jesus did for you by living a perfect life, the life you should have lived, and then dying on a cross, the death you should have died, in your place.
 2. Jesus is the Commander of the Universe. He’s not someone to get on your side; he’s someone to whom you surrender.
- I’ve given you several analogies for this.
 - Copernican Revolution
 - Movie
 - One of my favorites: God is my Co-Pilot
- My friend Jared Wilson says it this way, “*The only deal God is willing to make with you is his gift-righteousness for your absolute surrender.*”
- So here is my question: How do you approach God? Not, are you doing enough to get him on your side, gotten him as a fighter in your army, but have you enlisted yourself as a soldier in his?
- I think we see this all the time in politics. Everybody wants to enlist God on their side. And there is certainly a place for discussing which positions best represent a biblical approach to the issues... but Jesus has his own mission, and it’s not embodied in either of the political platforms.
- Jesus’ mission was to save sinners and make disciples and build his church. The most important question is not, “Is God on your side, but have you joined up with his mission, his agenda?”
- And thus, when it comes to money, rather than saying, “*How much do I have to give to God so I can go on about my life?*” You should look at all of your money is his, given to you for his purposes and his mission. And say, “Jesus, what do you want me to do with this money? It is all yours, and I am a soldier in your army.”
- **I have a pastor friend who said he challenged his people... JESUS on credit card? Would Jesus do this with his money? Would Jesus go into debt to buy this?**
 - Raudel: wouldn’t work for Hispanic people because a lot of them are named “Jesus” and so “Jesus” is already written on their credit card anyway.

That leads me to #2. Jesus invites us...

2. ...To Follow

- God is going to be the one doing the fighting in this battle. He doesn’t need Joshua to fight the battle for him; he is going to use Joshua in the battle, but that’s fundamentally different.
 - What he is going to tell Joshua to do, in fact, would be very strange. To walk around the walls of Jericho 7 times and then yell and blow trumpets and God would knock the walls down.
 - Now, truthfully, God didn’t need Joshua to shout to knock the walls down. Right? He could have done that part all by himself. But he chose to use Joshua.
- This is very important point. At no point does God tell us to go do fight the battle for him. He invites us to follow him as he fights the battle through us.
 - We see this again in Acts 1, after Jesus gives the “Great Commission” to the disciples, which was to “go into all the world and preach the gospel and make disciples of all nations,” do you remember the first thing he told them to do? Go and wait. Wait for promise of the Holy Spirit. You know some of the disciples were type-A and were like, “*Wait? We’ve got to get the gospel to every nation. We can’t delay, not even a second! We’ve got to get a conference organized. Peter, why don’t you put together a preaching tour? John, you write a book.*”

- But Jesus said to wait. Why? Because he wanted them to understand that they wouldn't build the church for him; he would do it through them. Did Jesus say, "You will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it?" No. He said, "*I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.*"
- This makes such a huge difference in how you approach the mission of God.
 - The question is not, "*How do we accomplish the mission and save the world?*" I've told you that question leads to constant guilt, feeling overwhelmed, and eventual paralysis. I know, I've lived there most of my life.
 - The question is simply, "*What has the Holy Spirit given me to do?*" What gifts has he given to me? What is he leading me to do with them? Our job is just to follow and obey.
- I've been trying to push you to this over the last several weeks. *Are you listening to the Holy Spirit in how he guides you?*
 - The Holy Spirit shows up in 59 places in the book of Acts. In 36 of those he is speaking, guiding them and leading them in mission, speaking through them.² Question: Is he speaking you and guiding you in ministry? If not, are you walking with the Holy Spirit?
 - Listen, I understand that there are some unique things happening in the book of Acts, but I am NOT one of those who believe we have a fundamentally different relationship to the Holy Spirit than what we see in those early Christians.
 - They were led by him in the mission; they depended on him; they were sensitive to him and they followed him.
- Let me give you a few examples:
 - Peter has a vision/dream. Then someone knocks on the door. **Acts 11:12**, "And the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them."³ (The NKJV says "without doubting.")
 - In Acts 16:6, Luke is recounting how the gospel was spreading through Europe. **Acts 16:6**, "And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. [7] And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." Didn't allow them to do what? *Not look at porn? Not curse or tell a lie?* No, he forbade them to preach the gospel in a certain area. You see how they are simply following the Holy Spirit?
- **My question:** *Do you follow the Spirit of God?*
 - Parents, do you follow him in your parenting? Do you think you're going to be able to raise your kids without the HS? Really?
 - My mom.
 - Do you get up every day and say, "Holy Spirit, show me where you want to use me today and who you want to use me with. Put words in my mouth to encourage others; to warn others; to tell them about Jesus."
 - For this series, I've asked you, "Are you following him in giving?" Listen: Just about every impulse I have in my heart to give, I try to obey. You say, "*What if it's not the Holy Spirit, but the devil?*" I'm not sure what is on the official list of things Satan prompts you to do, but I'm pretty sure sacrificial giving is not on that list. So I assume it's God and I give it. *Have you listened to the Holy Spirit for what you to give?*
 - *In this series, I've had so many people tell me what the Holy Spirit was leading them to give. The other night we our high school students had a service in which they went all-in.*
 - One student has 2 jobs. She has committed to giving 10% from both jobs AND she said the Holy Spirit was leading her to give half of the money that she makes in tips at her second job, and she's doing it JOYFULLY.

² Gary Tyra, *The Holy Spirit in Mission*, 64

³ vs 11 is ESV· vs 12 NIV NKIV· "without doubting" ESV· "making no distinction"

- Another student, in reflecting on how he could be all in with his time and his treasure, said that the Holy Spirit helped him realize he spent too much time playing PS3, so he's going to sell it and give the money to All-In.
- **Now, a couple words of caution,** I feel duty bound to say this any time I talk about listening to the Holy Spirit.
 - **First,** the Spirit of God never leads you to contrary to the Word of God. He's not going to ever lead you to leave your husband, or have an affair, or you teenagers can never come home and say, *"God has led me to have sex with my girlfriend or told me it was ok to smoke marijuana."*
 - **Second,** notice that the Apostles weren't waiting on the Spirit to tell them to preach the gospel or get involved in the mission. Jesus has already told us to do that. The Holy Spirit is guiding them as they do it. It's kind of like riding a bike. You start pedaling and then you steer. You start obeying, and the Holy Spirit will guide you as do it.
 - I point this out because we have a lot of people sitting around waiting on God to tell them do something he's already told us to do. I can assure you that if you are not actively in ministry, using your spiritual gifts, telling other people about Jesus, making disciples, pouring yourself out in the church, and giving sacrificially, you are not walking with the Holy Spirit.
 - Start to pedal and then he'll guide you. The Holy Spirit only steers moving ships.
 - I unpacked this a lot back in April in the series I preached on the Holy Spirit, if you want to go back into that and figure this out more you can go there.
- But the point is that Jesus calls us to follow. He doesn't need us to do anything for him, but he calls for us to let him do the impossible through us. He can do more with 5 loaves and 2 fish in 5 minutes than Bill Gates can do in 10 lifetimes. Or, I love this (by AW Tozer):
 - *"God is looking for people through whom he can do the impossible. What a pity we plan only the things we can do by ourselves." A. W. Tozer*

So, Jesus invites us #1 to SURRENDER; #2 to FOLLOW;

3. ...To Worship.

- When Joshua sees Jesus he immediately hits the deck; he verbalizes his surrender; and then he takes off his shoes—an Old Testament sign of deep respect for something holy.
- That's God's first and primary agenda for us: worship. Why?
 - He doesn't need us. Remember what happens in this story. God knocks down the walls.
- What he is after is our hearts.
 - You worship whatever you put ultimate value on. Whatever you feel like you have to have for life and security.
 - For many of you, that thing is money. So you fall on your face and cling to it and surrender to do what it says and show the utmost respect for it.
- Jesus wants you to replace money with him. Where you see him as ultimate.
 - Matthew 6
- Jesus wants to be our primary source of significance and security. Where we look at money and we say, *"God, I don't need all this for beauty and significance in my life because you are my beauty and significance. I don't need to spend all my money filling my life with pleasures because YOU are my pleasure. I don't need to save it all for my security because you are my security."*
- So he commands us to give. Not, as we've said, **to get the money out of our pockets, but the idols out of our hearts.** Generosity is not about our money (he doesn't need that); it's about the idols of our hearts (we need that).
- **Generosity is not something he wants from us but something he wants for us.**
- So to that end I've given you a few questions to consider about your giving:
 - *What does what you do with your money show that you most love?*

- **What does what you do with your money show that you most trust in?** (These are questions not about what God needs, but the idols of your heart—who or what your real God is. Has money replaced God as your primary source of security and delight?)
- **What does what you do with your money reveal about what kingdom you are serving?**
- **What statement does your giving to God make about his value to you?**
- Jesus is such a better God than money. God never loses value; he never enters a recession or dips below 10,000; and he's not dependent on who sits in the Oval Office.
- Listen: our giving problems are always worship problems. I guarantee you: If you don't give generously, it's because money is more of a source of pleasure or security to you than Jesus.
- **Worshipping Jesus is the way to joyful, cheerful giving.** You're my treasure; you're my trust. I can obey you in giving, whatever you say, because I don't need money for either of these things. Or, you could say it like this: ***"In you, Christ, I can give up all that I have, because in Christ, I have all that I need."***
- Maybe the reason your heart has been moved in this series to joyful generosity is that you've never really been saved by Jesus. You've been religious, grown up in church, but Jesus has never changed your heart so that you see him as your God and your King and your soul's delight, and what you most need is not to beat yourself up about giving, but to be saved and have your heart changed by Jesus.

To SURRENDER; TO FOLLOW; TO WORSHIP; Last, Jesus invites us...

4. ...To Win

- When Joshua encounters Jesus, he has his sword raised. *The raised sword of Jesus means he is ready to fight.* Friends, Jesus has never raised his sword and lost a battle.
- In Matthew 28:18–20 when Jesus says, *"All authority is given to me in heaven and in earth, therefore go..."* essentially he is raising his sword again. Victory is assured. The Great Commission begins with the Great Announcement of victory.
- Great sacrifices for the Great Commission come from great confidence that Jesus will do what he said he would. That his mighty sword is raised.
- Do you believe this? Does how you spend your money *show* that you believe it?
- Do you realize how short this life is... that you and I have one shot to make an impact on eternity?
 - When the **Confederacy** tried to secede from the Union, they started to print their own money. And, for a while in the South, you could use either Confederate or American money.
 - Well, after the war was over there was a short period in which people were still using this Confederate money, but everybody could see where it was going. What would the smart person do with their Confederate money if they had any? Spend it! Trade it in for Union money. Why? Because you can see in just a short time it's not going to have any value!
 - The foolish person is the one who saved that money and tried to hang onto it.
- If you see that this world is passing away, and that your life here is relatively short, why would you not invest as much of it as you can in eternity?
- **Randy Alcorn:** *"Financial planners tell us, 'When it comes to your money, don't think just three months or three years ahead. Think thirty years ahead.' Christ, the ultimate investment counselor, takes it further. He says, 'Don't ask how your investment will be paying off in just thirty years. Ask how it will be paying off in thirty million years.'"*⁴
- Do you really believe what the gospel says about eternity? Does what you do with your money show that you believe it?
- Summit: his sword is drawn. We win! It's going to be worth it! Are you "All-In"?
- We have to live our lives from the perspective of eternity. I want you to think about what you'll think about your life 5 minutes after you die:

⁴ Randy Alcorn *Treasure Principle* 18

- I've been re-reading John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and at the end of book 2 he has a scene where the pilgrims enter heaven. Bunyan depicts death as a *deep, cold, rapidly-flowing river*. Bunyan said,

This river has been a terror to many; yea, the thought of it have often frightened me. But now, standing here, it seems easy—the waters are indeed to the palate bitter, and to the stomach cold, yet the thoughts of what I am going to and the life that waits for me on the other side doth lie as a glowing coal in my heart... My toilsome days are ended. I am going now to see that head that was crowned with thorns, and that face that was spit upon for me.

I have formerly lived only by faith; but now I go where I shall live by sight, and shall be with him in whose company I delight myself. I have loved to hear my Lord spoken of on earth; and wherever I have seen the print of his shoe in the earth, there I have yearned to set my foot also... His voice to me has been most sweet; and his countenance I have desired more than the sun. His word I did gather for my food and as medicine for my weaknesses.

And Bunyan writes, as the pilgrim said these things, "His countenance changed," he looked upward, and he said, "Take me, for I come unto thee," and he slipped into heaven.⁵

Follow me, Jesus said. I promise you, it's worth it. Think about your life from the perspective of eternity.

The card:

Intro:

- First of all, if you're a guest, or new here, I am not talking to you. If you're not a Christian, I am definitely not talking to you. God doesn't want anything from you. Salvation is a gift of priceless value God wants to give to you. I've told you that if you have a problem trusting the church because you had a bad experience, I am fine with you giving somewhere else until you learn to trust us. I would rather you go all-in and be generous somewhere than let your skepticism keep you from genuine discipleship.
- Second, I know that in this process many of you end up feeling guilty. Some of you have really stretched over the last years to be able to even tithe. And you are saying, "Are you telling us we have to be doing more?" No—there's no compulsion, what you have done is very generous and I'm grateful that's between you and the Holy Spirit.
 - But there are many who spend more on one vacation than they give to the kingdom of God; some spend more on coffee; some more on cable. And I've asked you: What does what you are giving say about your heart?
- Now, I have challenged you, even if you are already giving generously, to listen to God, and ask him how he is telling you to sacrifice—we're a part of a unique body of people at a specific, *kairos* moment in time where God is taking us forward.
 - Is it in your heart to sacrifice—to give up something you love, to make a dent in your lifestyle, so we can take these steps?
 - Have you laid your budget and your income and all your possession before the Holy Spirit and said, "Holy Spirit, this all belongs to you, is there anything here you want?"
 - The surrender we give to Jesus is not a onetime thing. Joshua got on his face and, in a sense, stayed there. For the rest of his life he was like, "God what do you want from me? Where are you taking me?"
- I have challenged those of you who are not wealthy, **don't fall into** thinking your gift won't matter, because God doesn't need our money, he wants the statement of our heart.

⁵ Faith Cook, *Fearless Pilgrim: The Life and Times of John Bunyan*, 403. I have paraphrased a little and smoothed out some of archaic language.

- **To those who are wealthy**, I have told you that God is not impressed with your gift, even if it's large, if it doesn't represent your heart.

Remember David's statement in 2 Samuel 24:24, *"I will not give unto the Lord that which costs me nothing!"* We're on the same baseline. I want each of you to be able to look up to God and say, *"God, I am not giving you that which costs me nothing. This gift represents the love and trust of my soul. You are my treasure; you are my trust. You are the one I am indebted to and want to be with forever!"*

OK—Most of this is like a worksheet.

- **First line:** What you **gave last year**. ONE FUND.
- **2nd line:** What you want to **give additionally** each year.
 - For many, **a tithe**.
 - For many of you, that is **no longer a sacrifice** and you need to go beyond that. Staff: 20% and 30%; one guy told me God had challenged him in this time to go from 10% to 14%; another that said God had told him to double his tithe.
 - Projection, not commitment.
- **Multiply x 2:** We're thinking about this over 2 years. **ONE fund; TWO years.**
- **5 things:** I've asked you to identify the 5 most valuable things, to just lay them before the Holy Spirit if he is putting in your heart to transfer one of those, or two or three or all of them, to the kingdom of God. This is like your "alabaster box."
 - Some of you have savings that you were going to use for a home purchase or for a vacation or just have savings that are there for no apparent reason. Others of you might own property somewhere or have an asset that God is calling you to sell or downsize.
 - Others of you do not currently have any savings, but there is something that God is calling you to sacrifice right now that will cause you to have resources outside those of your annual income.
 - Last week: Honeymoon
 - I've already told about how one kid in our church thought about this with his PS3.
 - **This is from a parent of a 12 year old in our church:** *"J.D. has been challenging us to think of the top 5 most treasured things and ask God what he is saying about it. Our daughter told us today that she thinks she is going to sell her Apple iTouch and give that money to All-In ...she paid \$100 for it with her earned money. We are blown away by this,"* but they are thrilled that she is learning to think of the kingdom of God this way.
 - I challenge you to ask God about this number and write it down. **There are people in this room right now who have the ability to make 6- and 7-figure gifts.** I want to challenge you right now to go before God and see if this might be your ultimate moment of impact. It is going to take everyone in this room going before God and determining what an ultimate sacrifice looks like for them, and I am asking you to do that with God.
- **Gift chart:** I want you to look at the gift chart. PAUSE. Ask them to think about a number that is doable and comfortable. PAUSE. Now, think about a number that is generous - a number that requires a radical lifestyle change. I want to challenge you to that number. PAUSE.

Practical point: Most of this is the worksheet. The bottom section is the main one that we need with the gift amount and your info.

VIDEO

Mine and Veronica's story

- Veronica and I started out tithing, but very quickly we sensed God was telling us to do more. We want to leverage what we have for eternity.
- Twice God has told us to give up our cable.

- One time God used the lack of TV to strengthen our marriage and show us a joy that went beyond TV
- The other time after we called the company and cancelled it and they quit billing us they just forgot to turn it off... so Jehovah Jireh.
- Once a car. After it ended, he told us to keep doing that.
- This time, he is challenging us to give amounts that we've never done before. And we're nervous, but excited.
- This is a big deal with us for our kids. Our kids will learn what to value through us. We have prayed that God make our home one of evangelism and mercy. What my mouth says I love to my kids is not as important as what my life shows I delight in. I don't want them to grow up serving the God of money.
 - Honestly, I get concerned with many of you. You are Christians and you want your kids to grow up and be Christians. Some of you even put them in Christian school. But you are more a spectator at church than anything. You don't volunteer or serve. You give at token amounts. Do you not realize that your kids will see that and learn to value what you value?

SPACE TO THINK, WRITE: I'm going to give you some space here in a minute to think, pray, and write while the band plays. And if you need to talk with your spouse, you can do that too. All I am asking is that when you look at that number you put down on this card, you can look up at God and look to your spouse or family and say, "Yes, Lord. This is a true, radical sacrifice for us." If you do that, then you are accepting the All In challenge.

- See, All In isn't just about us raising \$26M. We want that to happen and we are praying for it because we believe God has huge plans for expanding the mission of Summit.
- What All-In is really about is for our entire church to become a radically generous people. So if that means we raise \$20M or if that means we raise \$30M, I'll know we have succeeded if 100% of us can truly all say that we sacrificed radically and went all in.
- God wants to grow you! God wants to shape in you new ways for his mission, to use you new ways. The question is, will you let Him—will you take this first step of going all-in?

2 MINUTES TO TALK AND WRITE

NOW: PRAY TO GOD/BRING IT UP

Bullpen

-
- In **He's called you to worship, and that is the heart of everything**. You don't fall on your face and stay there... but in everything you do there is a spirit of being on your face. He's what I need. He's who I trust.
- Luke 16 Jesus told a parable about an unjust manager of this rich guy's money who found out he was going to be fired and so before he could be fired he runs out to all the people who owed his boss money and said, "How much do you owe my boss? \$10K? Tell you what. Pay \$5K and we'll call it even." At this point he hadn't been fired yet and so he still had the authority to settle accounts on behalf of his master. Jesus said, "This guy might be unscrupulous and unethical, but you've got to hand it to him, that he's not a dummy.
- He knows his **fate is sealed** with his master—he's going to be fired. So, if he's got no future with his boss anyway, **why not use his boss's resources** while he still has control over them to **make some friends** that might take care of him after he's lost this job?
- Jesus says: In the same way, your time in this world is limited, at best.
- Remember our 4 questions:
 - *What does what you do with your money show that you most love?*
 - *What does what you do with your money show that you most trust in?*
 - *What does what you do with your money reveal about what kingdom you are serving?*
 - *What statement does your giving to God make about his value to you?*
-

Discarded

not with you doing something for God but you receiving what he's done for you. What you do for God flows out of your relationship with God, and so we would invite you here to study what that kind of relationship looks like.

For many, their encounter with God is an agreement to play by his rules and in response he will help them out with their lives and take them to heaven. It's like a negotiation. I'll play by your rules, this is what I expect from you. That's always characterized by 2 things:

- Limits to obedience
- Disappointment when God doesn't live up to his end of the bargain

Jesus comes as Commander. He is your portion. You didn't need a little help, you needed total salvation. You had sold yourself into slavery. He now *owns* you.

- Jared Wilson comment

Christianity is a walk with God, not doing things for God and using his help

Acts 1: Wait for promise of the Holy Spirit. They were not to go out and do things for God, they were to yield themselves to God so that he could do things through them.

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- To be in awe of God; to be overwhelmed by God's grace.
- Because, at the end of the day, he doesn't need us to do things for him. This whole thing is about coming to know him.
- Think about what happens in this story. (Do you remember what happened at Jericho? This is one of the most famous of all Bible stories.) This heavenly man gives Joshua the strangest battle plan for defeating

Jericho: he tells Joshua to march around the city 7 times and then shout at it... Joshua does it, and the walls fall down, and not a single Israelite is hurt!

- After that happened, Joshua was not like, “Look at what we did for God!” I imagine he took off his shoes again and got on his face and said, “Oh my God, look at what you’ve done for us.”
- God doesn’t need us—he splits open Red Seas and destroys entire Egyptian armies and knocks down the walls of Jericho all by himself. He calls us to worship.
- And so God calls us to generosity not because he needs something from us, but because he wants to get at the idols in our hearts. Or the two ways we’ve said it:
 - Generosity is not something he wants from us, but something he wants for us.
 - God’s primary purpose in generosity is not to get the money out of our pockets but the idols out of our hearts.
- He calls you to take your hands off of your money and worship him!
- You see, to worship something is to see it as ultimate. You depend on it.
 - You worship what you see as the one thing that needs to be in place in your life for you to have happiness. What you need to feel secure.
 - For many of you, that is money. So you fall on your face before it and surrender to do what it says and show the utmost respect for and cling to it.
 - Jesus wants you to replace money with him.

Color Key

Yellow needs to be put on powerpoint.

Green needs further research.

Blue needs to go on J.D.’s “teleprompt,” i.e., the back screen only.

Pink is powerpoint information that has recently been updated.