

Observations About Surrender

Preached in:

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I) INTRODUCTION

A) “Instinct”

1) *“Its not the work, I love the work. It’s the game.”* This is the response Cuba Gooding Jr.’s character gives Anthony Hopkins’ character in the movie **Instinct** when posed with the question: *“What is it that keeps you up at night and steals your peace?”* The answer? *“It’s the game.”*

What is *“The game”*? Cuba explains: *“I lie there and ask myself, ‘did I shake the right hands today?’ ‘Have I rubbed shoulders with the right people?’ ‘Have I made them like me enough?’”* Call it Ambition, call it Networking, call it Influence, call it Politics. Slap any fancy name on it you want, but when all is said and done these names are merely synonyms of a common principle.

What is that principle? **The movie calls it Dominion**; the driving desire in the heart of man to be in control. To take what he wants. To be first. To win. It is this need for “Dominion”, the movie argues, that is the enemy of our peace. This striving to be master of our life, is the very thing that robs us of living.

2) **As the credits of the movie were rolling on the big screen**, I sat in the darkened theater and pondered the message I had just been given. I realized that there was something in this Hollywood production that tugged at my heart; a truth that hit the very essence of who I was as a person. **I contemplated this concept of Dominion and why it had affected me like it did.** Then I realized this is the very issue that Adam struggled with in the Garden of Eden. **The issue is not however, dominion, the issue is surrender.**

B) Four Types of People Listening:

- 1) Those who have no desire to surrender fully to God.
- 2) Those who desire to surrender fully to God but are unable to do so.
- 3) Those who have surrendered fully to God and know what it is to belong wholly to Him.
- 4) Those who have prayed prayers of surrender to God and are perplexed because they repeatedly fail to live a life that reflects that surrender.

II) OBSERVATION 1: SURRENDER IS INEVITABLE.

A) We either surrender to sin, or we surrender to God.

- 1) **Romans 6:16**, *“Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?”*

B) Neither sin, nor God is satisfied with part.

- 1) **Matthew 6:24**, *“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”*
- 2) Sin:

- a) will take you farther than you wanted to go,
 - b) keep you longer than you wanted to stay,
 - c) cost you more than you wanted to pay.
- 3) **God:**
- a) The Bible describes God as jealous as many as 24 times.
 - i) God demands first place.
 - ii) This is not optional with Him.

III) OBSERVATION 2: GOD EXPECTS ABSOLUTE SURRENDER.

A) We are purchased.

- 1) **We are not our own.**
 - a) Luke 9:23 *“Then he said to them all: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’”*
 - b) “deny” literally means “to disown.”
 - c) There must come a time when you pass out of your hands and into God’s. From then on, you belong wholly to Him.
- 2) **We have no rights.**
 - a) If God is the owner, then He has the privileges of the owner.
 - b) The owner does what He pleases with what is owned.
 - i) Isaiah 45:9, *“Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherd on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’ Does your work say, ‘He has no hands?’”*

B) We are possessed.

- 1) 1 Corinthians 6:19, *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;”*
- 2) **QUOTE:** *“It is one thing for me to do God’s will. It is quite another thing for my will and God’s will to be so intertwined that you can’t tell the difference between the two.”*
- Augustine

IV) OBSERVATION 3: ABSOLUTE SURRENDER DOES NOT COME ABOUT BY REASON, BUT BY REVELATION.

A) The revelation that I can’t do it.

- 1) **Surrender is not obtained by forgiveness.**
 - a) Surrender is a state of being, not an act of will.
- 2) **Surrender is not obtained by feeling.**
 - a) Surrender is a fact. You either are or you aren’t.
 - b) Feeling comes after fact.
 - c) Fact has nothing to do with feeling.
- 3) **Surrender is not obtained by force.**
 - a) Determination on our part will fail.
 - b) Romans 7:14-23, *“The law is good, then. The trouble is not with the law but with me, because I am sold into slavery, with sin as my master. 15I don’t understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. 16I know perfectly well that what I am doing*

is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good. 17But I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things. 18I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. 19When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. 20But if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing it; the sin within me is doing it. 21It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22I love God's law with all my heart. 23But there is another law at work within me that is at war with my mind. This law wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.”

4) Surrender is obtained only by faith.

- a) Faith that is brought on by a revelation of the Holy Spirit.

B) The revelation that God has already done it.

- 1) When Jesus said, *“It is finished!”* He meant it.
 - a) The word “finished” literally means accomplished or completed.
 - b) He does not have to do the work again.
- 2) ***Galatians 2:20***, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*
 - a) “have been” is past tense.
- 3) ***Romans 6:11***, *“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*
 - a) “count” literally means, take inventory or assess.
- 4) **Victory** is won by fully believing and relying in the work that God has already done.
- 5) **Failure** comes about by relying on our commitment to Him rather than His power in us.

V) OBSERVATION 4: ABSOLUTE SURRENDER IS THE MEANS TO CONSTANT VICTORY AND PEACE.

A) The Paradox:

- 1) **Seek to save your life and you will lose it.**
 - a) In striving for dominion, Adam lost it.
- 2) **Absolute surrender brings what was being sought.**
 - a) In relinquishing dominion, Jesus won it.
 - b) Jesus set the example for us.

B) The Promise:

- 1) ***Romans 8:10-14***, *“Since Christ lives within you, even though your body will die because of sin, your spirit is alive* because you have been made right with God. 11The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you. 12So, dear brothers and sisters,* you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13For if you keep on following it, you will perish. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn*

from it (literally, “become dead” or “kill”) **and its evil deeds, you will live. 14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children* of God.”***

VI) CONCLUSION:

A) How do I experience Absolute Surrender?

- 1) You must be convinced of your need for it.**
- 2) You must confess your need to God.**
- 3) You must relinquish all rights and claim to yourself; your whole self; including your confidence in your ability to live a holy life.**
- 4) You must believe that your absolute surrender has been accomplished - and that it has been accomplished by God and not you.**

B) A Picture of Surrender

- 1) In front of the RCA building in New York on 5th Avenue, stand a massive statue of the mythical figure of Atlas, his whole body straining under massive weight as he holds the earth on his shoulders.**
- 2) Across the street in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, behind the high altar is a little shrine of the boy Jesus, perhaps eight or nine years old, and with no effort he is holding the world in one hand.**

C) Are you tired of the struggle?

Are you tired enough to let go?