



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Call to Surrender	SPEAKER	SP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Vision Series	DATE	4 and 5 March 2023

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

A surrendered life is about giving in to God's will and desires for us. He calls for us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him (Mark 8:34). The call to surrender is not a call to give up, but a call to give in to Christ.

How can we live a surrendered life – a life of cross-carrying and following Christ? In this week's sermon, SP Chua Seng Lee expounds on Mark 8:34-38 where he shares four reasons why we need to live a surrendered life, and the ways in which we can do so.

THE CALL TO SURRENDER

WHY do we need to live a surrendered life?

1. Salvation is found only in the Gospel

In Mark 8:35, the Bible reminds us that whoever loses his life for Christ will save it and whoever wishes to save his life will lose it. We will not succeed if we try to save our lives on our own – we are saved only through living our lives according to God's will.

>Do not be afraid to lose your life for the Gospel.

2. Salvation is not found in the world

Worldly pleasures can distract and numb our senses towards godly pursuits. We must remember that our salvation (e.g. freedom and deliverance) is not found in worldly things, and hence, should not allow these things to distract us from following Jesus.

>Do not be distracted by worldly pursuits.

3. The soul is priceless

Mark 8:37 reminds us that we should not exchange our souls for anything. Our souls are eternal and precious. We are not to be misled by the devil to make any exchange for our souls.

>We need to guard and protect our souls.

4. The soul is at stake

People are ashamed of God due to the influence of this adulterous and sinful generation (Mark 8:38). One of the ways in which the sinful world can corrupt is via wrong teaching (e.g. cheap grace). Another reason why people are ashamed of Jesus is because of the difficult truth Jesus preaches – which is the cross that signifies suffering, rejection and death. The cross demands repentance from us and people are embarrassed to talk about such things.

We must remember that while we are in this world, we are not of the world.
>Don't be corrupted by the world.

HOW to live a surrendered life? (Mark 8:34)

1. Say No to Self – Deny our carnal self

There are two types of sins – sins of commission (e.g. addiction, self-interest, entitlement) and sins of omission (e.g. failure to stop evil or to stand up for the truth). Both are sins that belong to the old self within us. The “old self” exists before we accepted Christ. It is carnal and sinful (Galatians 5:19-20) and we need to deny this sinful nature if we want to follow Jesus.

The “new self” is when we become followers of Jesus. It refers to a new person in Christ, with gifts, talents, strength and abilities that are gifted by God.

2. Say Yes to God – take up the cross and follow Jesus

When Jesus said to take up the cross, he is asking us to be:

- willing to suffer for Jesus' sake
- willing to be rejected for Jesus' sake
- willing to die for Jesus' sake

We must treasure Jesus above everything else before we can fully follow him. To be a true follower of Jesus is to OBEY the Word of God and to OBEY the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION

A surrendered life is not about giving up our lives, but giving in to God's will in our lives. It means to deny our carnal selves, take up the cross and follow Jesus. We cannot call ourselves followers of Christ if we do not do the above.

QUESTIONS

1. Think back to a time when the Holy Spirit prompted you to do something and it was out of your comfort zone (e.g. praying for someone challenging to get along with, etc.). How did you overcome that?

2. Worldly pursuits sometimes distract us from following Jesus – are there areas in your life distracting you from focusing on God? What is God asking you to surrender to Him today?

3. SP reminds us that our soul is priceless and that salvation cannot be found in this world, but can only be given to us by God. Do you have oikos who have yet to know Christ? Even as we lead surrendered lives, how can we go about winning souls for God's Kingdom?