



SURRENDER FOR LIFE

Giving Up Control, 101:
John 8:21-30

I WANNA DO WHAT I WANNA DO...

- Be my own Boss
- On my time
- I want my cake and to eat it
- I want everything to go my way
- We feel this way from birth—I'll prove it to you



IT'S IN OUR SINFUL DNA...

- From the 1st day of life, we're trying to get everything our way
- Since that's the case, the idea of surrendering your life to Jesus is a crazy concept
- It's NOT something ANYONE is happy to do



UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER

- This is exactly Jesus' teaching
- He tells us to surrender our lives to Him so that we may have eternal life in Him
- It is no wonder why so many people would not come to Christ, because it requires a simple unconditional surrender to Him and they don't want to do that




UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER?

- It means a surrender without conditions from the ones who give up the fight
- There shouldn't be anything withheld
- How can He expect us to do that?
- Does He know what we'd give up?
- Of course He knows! He gave us an example how to live



²¹ "Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." ²² So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" ²³ And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. ²⁴ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*,

you will die in your sins." ²⁵ So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you *from* the beginning? ²⁶ I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world." ²⁷ They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*,



and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. ²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me; He [i]has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." ³⁰ As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him."

John 8:21-30 [NASB]

A. WHERE I GO YOU CANNOT COME

- Vv 21-22
- He'd already warned them
- That where He was going, they could not go
- He warns AGAIN— and they still would rather die in their sins
- Wasting one last opportunity by arguing instead of trusting Him



A. WHERE I GO YOU CANNOT COME

- How many waste precious time and effort to deny the gracious invitation of God for eternal life?
- How many carnal believers refuse to submit to the Lord because they think He teaches stands against carnal living?
- The suicide thing is another thing from the Pharisees



B. ANOTHER "I AM", VV 23-24

- Since all sin must be dealt with, those who die in sin without Jesus in their hearts will have to pay for their sins in hell
- But if we have our sins dealt with now, on this side of death, by trusting in whom Jesus is and what He did to save us, we can avoid dying in our sins, because we receive His grace which is God's unmerited favor for the undeserving that is us



B. ANOTHER "I AM", VV 23-24

- In V24, He claimed to be "God Himself"
- Ever know anyone who said...
- Why is "He" italicized here?
- "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that 'I am', you will die in your sins."
- Same thing to the Woman at the Well
- John 4:26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."
- In Greek, it is "ego eimi."



C. WHO ARE YOU? , V 25

- This question is obviously a combination of willful confusion and contempt
- Its incredible and ridiculous that they ask again, when He's shown every evidence– they rejected them all!
- Jesus reply is really, "I AM exactly what I said!
- In other words, "Why should I teach you new things, or give you new proof, when you have not honestly considered the witnesses and evidences I have already given?"



D. I SPEAK WHAT THE FATHER SPOKE

- Vv 26-27, Jesus IS God, but He is emphasizing that He ONLY says what comes from the Father
- To explain this, look at the training for good dogs for the blind
- To train a good guide dog, trainers look for dogs that want to please. You can train a disobedient one, but it takes much more effort and time
- The Lord Knows who will and won't be SAVED



D. I SPEAK WHAT THE FATHER SPOKE

- During extensive training, a guide dog candidate has to face many temptations and obstacles to overcome – like chasing a cat, smelling everything and getting distracted by other people or things. Overcoming these things is against the dog's nature
- Some dogs can't overcome
- Even the graduated dog has to go through obedience training to maintain
- See the parallels?



E. WHEN YOU LIFT UP THE SON OF MAN

- Vv 28-30, He is showing complete submission to His father's will
- "Lifted up" has dual meaning
- Submitting to this also Glorified the Father
- Jesus was completely submissive to God so we could follow His example
- Many believers claim to be submissive to God
- But only in certain areas of life...



THE TAKE-HOME...

- Here's your challenge—
- Either you are submissive to Him in every area of your life, or you aren't, no exception.
- Are you submissive to His commands in your life? Your marriage? In raising your children?
- In your finances? In the area of loving and forgiving others? In the area of honesty?

