

Just Checking In
JCI #200 October 2018
Jesus... always serving!

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The first JCI went out on December 20th, 2006... almost 12 years to reach #200. It is our prayer and hope that these devotionals encourage and strengthen you in your walk with Christ and your work for Christ. He alone is worthy!

The One who taught us to pray with surrender and compassionate service... 'Our Father, You are in heaven... Your will be done... forgive as we forgive...' (Matthew 6:9–10) lived it out before us.

Jesus... always serving...always surrendered to the Father's will!

As a follower of Christ Jesus, surrender and compassionate service must characterize my life. This is absolutely contrary to the desires and habits of my depraved heart and mind. Let's look at our Savior's example and be prepared to be stunned, humbled, convicted and changed as His Spirit brings this home to our hearts.

Jesus.... Always Surrendered To The Father's Will.

Jesus' first prayer of surrender in the courts of heaven

His first prayer of submission is found in Hebrews 10:5-7 This was His prayer as He left heaven to take on flesh in the womb of Mary to be our Redeemer. Hear Him as he steps to heaven's door, on the precipice of the incarnation, as the Holy Spirit moves towards Mary to create His humanity in her womb.

Hebrews 10:5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

He referred to this surrendered submission many times. One summary statement from His own lips is in John 6:38. "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but to do the will of Him who sent Me."

Paul in Philippians refers to Christ's full surrender in these terms.. Philippians 2:8

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross"

We are saved by His surrender.

Jesus' second prayer of surrender in Jerusalem

Jesus' second prayer of surrender is as the final week in Jerusalem is nearing its end. A group of Gentiles come to see Him. This is a foretaste of those from every tribe, language and nation who will come to Him in faith. This requires the cross. He is struck deep in His soul with the agony and horror of becoming our sin-offering,

yet continues to surrender to the Father's will. John 12: 27 -28 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Jesus surrenders His life and will to the Father's plan for the Father's glory. Acceptable and genuine surrender is always and only for the glory of God. It is costly. It is hard. It is right. It is glorifying to the Father.

We are saved by His surrender!

Jesus' third prayer of surrender in Gethsemane

This final three-fold prayer of surrender and submission was in Gethsemane with the vision of the torture of the cross, His becoming sin, His taking the wrath of heaven but hours away. He prayed this prayer three times... teaching us that surrender is continual, and requires a continual yielding as the forces of evil mount against the Father's will. He sincerely asked to be spared the cross since there was nothing in His holy nature that could respond to taking the sin of the world upon Himself with anything but horror and repulsion. But His desire for the Father's will was greater than His horror of the cross and the suffering we will never understand.

Only He and His Father could comprehend what Calvary would require.

The Father surrendered His Son, as the Son surrendered Himself...and all for us! How can it be?

Matthew 26:36-43

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

We are saved by His surrender!

Jesus surrenders all for us, and calls us to surrender all for Him. This is where life is found!

Matthew 16:24-26 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Compassionate Service is the Fruit of Surrender

Because the Son of God was fully surrendered to the Father's will, He was fully focused on serving others. Let's consider just 6 proofs of His servant's heart in his final hours up to and on the cross.

1 Compassion for Peter Jesus forgives and prays for Peter before Peter sins in denying Christ!

Luke 22:31-34 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But **I have prayed for you**, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And **when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.**" 33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." 34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, **you will deny three times that you know me.**"

2 Compassion for High Priest's Servant Jesus heals the soldier's ear that Peter cuts off in Gethsemane

Luke 22:49-51 When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them **struck the servant of the high priest**, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And **he touched the man's ear and healed him.**

3 Compassion for the Women of Jerusalem Jesus warns them of what is coming with deep concern

Luke 23:27-28 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.

4 Compassion for the Soldiers who were nailing Him to the cross Praying for their forgiveness

Luke 23:33-34 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

5 Compassion for His mother He gives her care into the hands of John the apostle for her well-being

John 19:25-27 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

6 Compassion for the Thief The thief started the day cursing Jesus, but ended seeking His grace

"Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him" (Matthew 27:44)

"Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him" (Mark 15:32)

Luke 23:39-43 One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? "And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Our amazing Savior never ceases to show compassion towards others... those who would deny, betray, curse, attack, and torture Him. He was continually concerned for others. May the fruit of compassionate service flow from our surrendered hearts in following our great Savior.

Self Check Questions

- 1) What is Christ calling me to surrender to Him right now?
- 2) Who is Christ calling me to compassionately serve right now?
- 3) What is hindering me from submission & compassionate service? Will I surrender all?

For Further Study

Review the six passages detailing Christ's compassionate service in His final hours. Let this example of continual compassion sink deep into your soul. Write out a prayer to God in response to each one.

***Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.
Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4 Ron & Val***

Seeing the Invisible,
Embracing the Unapproachable,
Declaring the Unexplainable,
Changed by the Immutable,
Running after the Irresistible
With inexhaustible joy
In our inexpressible sorrows,
Spending our time on eternity,
Owning nothing yet possessing everything
That matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY