

Pastor Jason Huffman

8/3/2025

Teaching Notes:

Matthew 20:26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

Luke 22:25 And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’

Title: Submission For All

Big Idea: Submission to God makes submission to others easier.

8 Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous.

“All of you be of one mind” or harmonious.

Unity is not uniformity & unity does not eliminate diversity.

“Harmony” is two or more notes working together as one.

1. Seek unity with diversity.

Philippians 2:5 NIV In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

2. Demonstrate godly character & care.

Compassion: from sympathetic, to feel shared feelings

Love as brothers: brotherly love, philadelphos.

Tenderhearted: soft hearted, good guts, touched inside

Courteous: having a friendly, kind attitude, polite, manners.

9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

To be friendly to your friends is an attribute of criminals.

3. Fulfill the calling of being a blessing.

Bless with prayer

Listen to get to know them

Eat a meal together

Serve them in a meaningful way

Story sharing how God has worked in your life

Invite them personally to church

Nurture the person w/time, respect & care.

Gospel shares the good news of Christ.

Sermon Recap

Pastor Jason dives into the often-misunderstood concept of submission, emphasizing its vital role in our relationships with God and each other. This message invites you to reconsider your perspective on power, unity, and service in your everyday life. Submission to God in how we treat people will help His mission to be accomplished through our lives.

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to submit to God, and how does that relate to having a voice and value in our own lives?

- Pastor Jason talked about how submitting to God does not mean being a doormat or lacking a voice. It's modeled by Jesus, who submitted to the Father while sharing His heart.
- In what areas of your life do you struggle to submit to God, and how can understanding His character as loving and trustworthy help you?

How can we seek unity while appreciating diversity within our relationships and communities?

- Unity does not mean uniformity, and Christians can come together with different perspectives for a common purpose.
- Think of a time when you faced a disagreement with someone. How might embracing diversity have improved that situation?

What are some practical ways we can demonstrate compassion and care for others?

- Traits like being tenderhearted and courteous can help build stronger relationships, and help people see Jesus in us.
- Can you think of people in your life who need compassion? How can you show them care?

How can we respond to mistreatment or insults in a way that reflects our Christian values?

- Pastor Jason mentioned that instead of returning evil for evil, Christians should bless others, which is our calling from God.
- Think of a recent situation where you felt mistreated. How could you choose to bless that person instead?

Why is it important to fulfill the calling of being a blessing to others, regardless of how they treat us?

- Pastor Jason explained that our inheritance in Christ calls us to share blessings with everyone, not just those who are kind to us because that is how God treated us.
- How does knowing that God blesses us despite our flaws influence how you interact with others, especially those who might be difficult?

Prayer Prompts

- Ask God to help us trust in His divine direction and character as we submit to Him.
 - Pray for courage to submit in our relationships this week.
 - Request prayer for any personal struggles with submission or authority figures in our lives.
 - Ask for guidance to demonstrate love and compassion in our interactions with others.
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5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore the themes of submission, unity, and demonstrating godly character as we align ourselves with God's mission and work together in harmony.

Day 1

Matthew 20:26

Today, we reflect on the call to embody true submission as modeled by Christ. Submission is not about losing our voice or value; rather, it is about aligning our will with God's mission. Jesus, through His life and sacrifice, exemplified this divine direction, showing us that submission is rooted in trust, care, and character. As we strive to follow His example, we must embrace the strength that comes from serving others, rather than seeking power for ourselves.

In a world where authority is often misused, we can find solace in knowing that God's call to submission is intertwined with care and compassion. By giving our lives to serve others, we can cultivate unity in diversity and become agents of God's love in our communities. Let us challenge ourselves to reflect on how we can submit to God's leadership, trusting in His goodness as we serve one another.

- What does submission look like in your daily life?
- In what areas do you struggle to submit to God's direction?
- How can you encourage others to see the beauty of submission in their lives?
- Ask God to reveal areas of your life where you need to submit more fully to Him.
- Pray for the strength to serve others with humility and love.

Day 2

Philippians 2:5

On this second day, we dive deeper into the importance of unity within the Body of Christ. Christ's call for us is to have the same mindset as Him—where love, humility, and mutual respect create a harmonious community. Unity does not mean conformity; instead, it celebrates the diversity of each individual while maintaining a common mission. By aligning our hearts with God's purpose, we can enhance our collective strength and fully represent the kingdom of Heaven on earth.

As we reflect on unity, it's essential to examine how our personal attitudes and actions contribute to the body. Are we uplifting and encouraging those around us, or are we critical and divisive? Let us strive to foster an environment where differences are appreciated, and together, we move forward united in love and purpose, reflecting the character of Christ to the world.

- How can you contribute to the unity within your community?
- In what ways do you need to embrace diversity more in your interactions?
- What common mission can you share with those around you?
- Pray for unity among believers in your community and beyond.
- Ask God to help you embrace and celebrate differences while focusing on shared values.

Day 3

1 Peter 3:8

As we progress to day three, we focus on demonstrating godly character and care in our relationships. The call to "have compassion for one another" reminds us that our interactions should be marked by empathy, love, and kindness. These qualities not only reflect the heart of God but also serve to bridge divides and mend broken relationships. For Christians, embodying these attributes is non-negotiable, as they are fundamental to living out our faith authentically.

True character is often revealed in moments of adversity. Like Jonathan, who supported David amid profound personal loss, we are challenged to extend grace and love regardless of our circumstances. By engaging with others in compassion and tenderness, we not only uplift those around us but also testify to the transformative power of Christ in our lives. Let us commit to embody these traits as we seek to be a blessing to everyone, including those who challenge us.

- How can you exhibit compassion towards someone who is difficult to love?
- Who in your life needs your support and understanding right now?
- What steps can you take to cultivate a kind and courteous attitude?

- Pray for opportunities to demonstrate Christ-like love to those around you.
- Ask God to give you the courage to be vulnerable and supportive.

Day 4

1 Peter 3:9

On day four, we are reminded of the power of blessing in our responses to others, especially when confronted with negativity or hostility. “Not returning evil for evil” is a radical call to rise above our natural instincts and respond with grace instead. In a world where insults are commonplace, we have the opportunity to flip the narrative by becoming vessels of God’s blessing, showing kindness to those who may not deserve it. This is the essence of being a true follower of Christ.

Our ability to respond positively amidst adversity is rooted in the deep understanding of our identity as children of God. We have received countless blessings, not because of our merit, but through His grace. Thus, we share these blessings with others, aligning with our calling to be instruments of peace. Each act of kindness and generosity not only impacts others but also reflects God’s character in a world that desperately needs His light.

- How do you typically respond when provoked by others?
- Can you recall a time when you were blessed in spite of challenges?
- How can you be proactive in offering blessings to those who irritate you?
- Pray for the strength to bless those who mistreat you.
- Ask God to help you see others through His eyes and respond in love.

Day 5

John 13:34-35

As we conclude our five-day devotional, we reflect on the ultimate command Jesus gave—to love one another. This culmination of our study brings together the themes of submission, unity, and character. Our love for one another is the defining mark of believers. It is through our love that we bear witness to the truth of the gospel, demonstrating the very essence of Christ’s transformative power in our lives.

In living out this love, we must remember that it is active and requires intentionality. Whether it’s through small acts of kindness or larger sacrifices, our daily actions reflect our hearts towards others. As we step into our week ahead, let’s commit to embodying and sharing this love, inviting those around us into the same blessings we’ve received. Together, we can create a vibrant community that mirrors the heart of Christ.

- Who can you show Christ-like love to this week?
- How can you intentionally serve your community in love?
- What steps can you take to ensure your love reflects Christ’s love?
- Pray for opportunities to love those around you deeply and authentically.
- Ask God for a heart that seeks to build a community of love and support.