

## Primary Messages of Jesus

### **Session #8 Life Comes To You Through Surrender!**

#### **(What Life? Abundant, Eternal, Practical, & Given)**

Jesus taught that self-absorption leads to destruction, while radical, sacrificial selflessness is the path to true life. He commanded his followers to prioritize others, serve without expecting repayment, and willingly sacrifice personal comfort to love God and neighbor!

**James 3:13-16 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup>If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you are bitterly jealous and there is **selfish ambition in your heart**, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. <sup>15</sup>For jealousy and **selfishness** are not God's kind of wisdom. **Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.** <sup>16</sup>For wherever there is jealousy and **selfish ambition**, **there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.**

### **We are about to celebrate 250 years as a Nation!**

In 1976, British historian Sir John Bagot Glubb published *The Fate of Empires*, a foundational essay outlining how great civilizations follow a predictable seven-stage life cycle spanning roughly 250 years. When applied to the United States (founded in 1776), this 250-year framework suggests America is currently in the final stages of this cycle.

Glubb's seven stages and their historical application to the United States timeline generally map to the following periods:

- **The Age of Pioneers (c. 1776–1800):** Driven by vision, courage, and a pioneering spirit, a new society breaks away or emerges.
- **The Age of Conquest (c. 1800–1860):** The nation expands its boundaries, utilizing military strength and geographical drive to secure dominance over vast territories (e.g., westward expansion in the U.S.).
- **The Age of Commerce (c. 1860–1920):** Wealth shifts from adventure to trade. The Industrial Revolution and massive economic growth make the nation an international powerhouse.
- **The Age of Affluence (c. 1920–1945):** The nation accumulates massive wealth, but the focus shifts to making money, enjoying comfort, and prioritizing the preservation of wealth over the pioneering values that built it.
- **The Age of Intellect (c. 1945–1980):** High education, philosophy, and academic pursuits take center stage. Mental cleverness replaces moral dedication, and institutions begin to produce skeptical thinkers who question the dominant narrative of the empire.
- **The Age of Decadence (c. 1980–2010):** The nation shifts toward materialism, pessimism, and political division. The welfare state expands, social cohesion weakens, and public frivolity or distraction becomes a primary pursuit.

- **The Age of Decline and Collapse (c. 2010–Present):** Internal conflicts, political infighting, and economic strains weaken the nation. Citizens lose their sense of civic duty, relying on outside systems or escapism, leading to the ultimate downfall or restructuring of the empire. [1, 2, 3] While Glubb's model uses 250 years as an average lifespan across historically studied empires, his framework is meant to be a cautionary lens rather than an absolute prophecy.

**This famous generational timeline was coined by Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the founding father of modern Dubai. It describes how nations and empires rise and fall through cycles of hardship, prosperity, complacency, and collapse.**

**The Story and the Cycle** The saying goes:

*"My grandfather rode a camel, my father rode a camel, I drive a Mercedes, my son drives a Land Rover, and my grandson will drive a Land Rover... but my great-grandson will have to ride a camel again."*

**When asked why the cycle reverses, Sheikh Rashid explained a timeless historical truth about societies:**

- **Hard times create strong men.**
- **Strong men create easy times.**
- **Easy times create weak men.**
- **Weak men create hard times.**

We are not guaranteed those outcomes, but this has been the observation of nations. Israel would find themselves in desperate times, cry out to God, be delivered, then be committed to God, and then be tempted and drift away from Him over and over. **If we follow God as a people, our outcome can be different, better, and more wonderful.**

### **Jesus told us to lay down our selfishness and follow Him.**

When selfishness spirals out of control, it fractures the foundational trust and cooperation holding a society together. This hyper-individualism erodes **social cohesion**, replacing civic duty and mutual support with extreme inequality, widespread corruption, and the breakdown of essential public institutions.

This unchecked behavior ultimately creates a deeply divided, unstable, and unsustainable environment where long-term societal progress is sacrificed for immediate, individual gratification.

**2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT)** You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be **very difficult times**. <sup>2</sup>For people will **love only themselves and their money**. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup>They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and **have no self-control**. They will be cruel and hate what is good. <sup>4</sup>They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. <sup>5</sup>They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

## [Life Come To You Through Surrender:](#)

### **(What Life? Abundant, Eternal, Practical, & Given)**

#### **1. Take Up Your Cross & Follow Me**

**Matthew 10:34-39 (NLT)**<sup>34</sup> “Don’t imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> ‘I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.<sup>36</sup> Your enemies will be right in your own household!’<sup>[1]</sup>


<sup>37</sup> “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>38</sup>If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>39</sup>If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

 [Jesus First](#)

 [And That Will Cost You](#)

 [Take Up Your Cross & Follow Me](#)

 [Cling To Your Life \(selfish desires\) Lose Life – applied salvation, applied life](#)

 [Give Up Your Life \(selflessness\) Find It](#)

#### **2. Give Up Everything**

**Luke 14:25-30 (NLT)**<sup>25</sup> A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup>“But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. <sup>30</sup>They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’

<sup>31</sup>“Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? <sup>32</sup>And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. <sup>33</sup>So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

 [Jesus First](#)

 [Take Up Your Cross & Follow Me](#)

 [Don’t Begin Unless You Understand There is a Laying Down of Self, a Cost](#)

 [Followers Called To Give Up Everything You Own](#)

#### **3. Get Away From Me Satan With Your Most Dangerous “Selfishness/Human Perspective” Trap**

**Matthew 16:21-26**

<sup>21</sup> From then on Jesus<sup>[1]</sup> began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

<sup>22</sup> But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him<sup>[k]</sup> for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.”<sup>25</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.<sup>26</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?<sup>[l]</sup> Is anything worth more than your soul?

- ✚ Words Encouraging Jesus to Be Self Centered or Self Preserving Were Words Directly From Satan
- ✚ Give Up Your Own Way, You Must Not Be Selfish
- ✚ Take Up Your Cross & Follow Me
- ✚ Hang Onto Your Life – Lose It (Salvation and this life)
- ✚ What Do You Benefit If Gain The Whole World By Building Your Little Kingdom, but Lose your Soul For Eternity?
- ✚ Is Anything Worth More Than Your Soul in Eternity, Rather Than Hell?

(More scriptures)

- **Mark 8:34-38 (NLT)** <sup>34</sup> Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be ...
- **Luke 9:23-26 (NLT)** <sup>23</sup> Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give...
- **Luke 17:33 (NLT) In a Discussion About The Rapture**<sup>33</sup> If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and...

#### 4. **Laying Down One (Seed, or Life) Produces Much More (Seed, or Life)**

**John 12:23-26 (NLT)** <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man<sup>[l]</sup> to enter into his glory. <sup>24</sup> I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. <sup>26</sup> Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

- ✚ Death Must Happen To Bring Multiplication of Life
- ✚ Those Who Love Their Life, Will Loose It
- ✚ Those Who Care Nothing (Surrender) Their Life Will Keep It For Eternity (Salvation is Surrender)
- ✚ Being a Christian (Saved) is Following

**Idolatry** - Jesus spoke extensively about idolatry, though he often broadened the definition beyond physical statues and carved images. He reframed idolatry as a heart and devotion issue, warning against anything that replaces God as the ultimate priority in a person's life. Anything you put before God in your heart as higher than God is idolatry.

#### 5. **Rich, Young, Ruler Couldn't Let Go Of His Money**

**(Because His Money Had Him)(But God Had 100 Times His Money For Him and Eternal Life)**

**Matthew 19:16-30 (NLT)**<sup>16</sup> Someone came to Jesus with this question: “Teacher,<sup>[f]</sup> what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”

<sup>17</sup> “Why ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep<sup>[g]</sup> the commandments.”

<sup>18</sup> “Which ones?” the man asked.

And Jesus replied: “You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. <sup>19</sup> Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>[h]</sup>”

<sup>20</sup> “I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else must I do?”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. <sup>24</sup> I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

<sup>25</sup> The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

<sup>26</sup> Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

<sup>27</sup> Then Peter said to him, “We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?”

<sup>28</sup> Jesus replied, “I assure you that when the world is made new<sup>[i]</sup> and the Son of Man<sup>[j]</sup> sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.”<sup>30</sup> But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.

- **Matt 6:24 (NLT)** <sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.
- **Luke 12:33 (NLT)** <sup>33</sup> “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy
- **Luke 21:1-4 (NLT)** While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. <sup>2</sup> Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>3</sup> “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. <sup>4</sup> For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.”
- **Matt 23:23-24 (NLT)** <sup>23</sup> “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens,<sup>[g]</sup> but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. <sup>24</sup> Blind guides! You strain your water so you won’t accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!<sup>[h]</sup>”

## 6. Surrender My Self, Time, and Abilities

**Romans 12:1 (NLT)** And so, dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. **Let them be a living and holy sacrifice**—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him

## **7. Love People (or Surrender Your Needs to Those Needs of Others)**

**Matt 7:12a (NLT)** <sup>12</sup>“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.

**Luke 10:30-37 (NLT)** <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

<sup>31</sup>“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. <sup>32</sup>A Temple assistant<sup>[a]</sup> walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup>“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. <sup>34</sup>Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins,<sup>[a]</sup> telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

<sup>36</sup>“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.<sup>37</sup>The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

### **Main Action**

- 1. Choose to Surrender to Christ**
- 2. My Desire is No Longer Top Priority**
- 3. It’s Actually Good to Others, And Me To Be Selfless and Sacrificial**
- 4. Analyze our Life to Make Sure We Are Surrendered To The Will of Christ**

### **Encouragement**

**Die, TO LIVE!**

**The Work of God is Life for You and Me, Here and Eternity!**

- **John 10:10**<sup>10</sup>The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
- **Proverbs 3:5 (NLT)**<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.
- **Romans 8:28 (NLT)**<sup>28</sup>And we know that God causes everything to work together<sup>[a]</sup> for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them
- **Phil 4:6-7 (NLT)**<sup>6</sup>Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup>Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.