

## **Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**

**Sunday February 20, 2022. "The Genius of Surrender. The power of surrender to change hearts"**

### **I Intro.**

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from the message Sunday. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. We're now in 2022, a brand new year, and we're excited about where God is leading us. A great group of familiar and new faces join us each Sunday. Our children's area is expanding and we are retooling our student ministry. We also have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can check all that out through our social media sites. We're so encouraged by your love and presence when you gather with us. If you're still joining us online, we love and so appreciate your presence also. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is ANYTHING you need, prayer, ideas or suggestions, please pass them our way. We know the future is still uncertain, but we are committed to making our virtual congregation as central to NCC as our in person group.

### **II Recap.**

This series began with the belief that the teachings and truths of Jesus are counter-intuitive. They force us to pull out all of our assumptions and ideologies. Hold them up alongside Jesus's life to see if they're actually from God. Asking; **is what we believe is true, or an ideology, assumption handed to us?** They recognize the ability to have beliefs, operate your life from those beliefs, but be open-minded, humble, and curious enough to consider different views and perspectives. Our working definition of genius, open for scrutiny is: **Genius- to apply a counter intuitive creative solution to a situation or currently held school of thought ... and it works.**

Which means genius implies there is some risk pushing against commonly held protected beliefs or practices with newly discovered truths. Genius also requires the adopters to rethink and reexamine what they thought to be true. These would be our beliefs and assumptions. Genius asks us to shift how we view, understand, and live based on what these people brought to the world. This is the **"since"** we've talked about. Since this is true... our lives need to look like this now.

The first week we talked about the genius and power of incarnation. The genius of being among, with, others. Last week we talked about the genius of love, and the importance of doing some real work to see what practicing this love Jesus talked about and practiced in our daily life. Today we talk about the genius of surrender. And hold onto your hats for this one.

### **III Sunday.**

So, surrender...who here wants to just surrender to someone else? No one huh? Let's have a little general conversation first about surrender before we dive into the topic.

**What does surrender mean to you? Do you have a good or bad understanding of it?**

**If surrender is a struggle for you, why or why not?**

As always, we used two different passages to talk about this scriptural idea of surrender. One is Jesus proclaiming this truth. The second is Jesus actually practicing this truth. So, read **Luke 9:23-25**. And then **Luke 22:39-44**, and answer our usual questions.

**What jumped out to you about these passages?**

**What did they teach, show, reveal to you about this idea of surrender?**

**Where and how did you struggle with these teachings?**

The whole idea behind the genius of surrender, is that it's so counterintuitive to the way our society operates. We're all about winning, taking the next hill, not letting anything stand in our way or giving up. And surrender pushes back against all of those. Not saying we are to be weak and allow others to run over us. It's about nurturing a lifestyle, and practices that keep us, (actually protect us), from the attraction AND addiction to power and getting our way. Often only for the sake of getting our way. And the genius of surrender is it breaks the need for everything to work out the way we want...even when it might be a good thing. So, let's talk about power a bit and then we'll unpack those passages.

**When have you seen power and a person forcing their way go badly?**

**When have you seen something good happen with conflicting beliefs and values, and what did it take for the good thing to happen?**

The first passage Jesus talks about what it means to actually follow him...to become a disciples. Jesus says we must let him lead us. This isn't talking about sin. That wasn't the conversation he was having. Jesus was talking about what it means to follow him. And that was letting him lead. To be the primary driving force in our lives. And the principle behind doing this is surrender. To willingly give up our own wants and desires and take on the desires of Jesus. And Jesus said the risk of not surrendering, of not letting Jesus lead is losing our very self, our soul.

**How do you understand AND apply this teaching of Jesus that leading him lead, protects us from our own attraction to power?**

The second passage Jesus is actually putting this practice of surrender into place. He was modeling through his own life what it looked like to actually surrender. We see Jesus going through the process of surrendering his own wants and desires for a greater good that will be done through him. The key prayer in this was; *"not what I want, but your will be done."*

**What does that prayer look like in your life?**

#### **IV Challenge.**

Here is an action Step you can put into place. Do a reverse Bucket List. Write down what you expect from life and a relationship with God. The big and small things. Even if they're connected to some sort of spiritual understanding. Maybe any personal interests. Then pray, contemplate over time, for wisdom and guidance for what it would look like to surrender to the movement of God in those specific things. And when that striving, desiring, begins to become less important, you feel God helping you surrender to what God wants...check it off your list.

**Off the top of your head, what would be one or two things for you to learn to surrender?**