

Encounter Church
Sunday August 9, 2026

Against the Grain
Being Bigger than Self (Part 2)

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (GNT)- “(1) Remember that there will be difficult times in the last days. (2) People will be selfish, greedy, boastful, and conceited; they will be insulting, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, and irreligious; (3) they will be unkind, merciless, slanderers, violent, and fierce; they will hate the good; (4) they will be treacherous, reckless, and swollen with pride; they will love pleasure rather than God; (5) they will hold to the outward form of our religion, but reject its real power. Keep away from such people.”

WE WANT TO GO AGAINST THE GRAIN OF THE CULTURE OF THIS WORLD IN THE LAST DAYS!

Against the Grain- Choosing a path or belief system that goes against what most people do or think.

OUR AGAINST THE GRAIN VERSE LAST WEEK:

Matthew 16:24-26 (NKJV)- “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (25) For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. (26) For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

(MSG)- “Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?”

Jesus says, ***“Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am.”***

BUT JESUS I WANT TO BE YOUR LITTLE HELPER!

IF JESUS DOESN’T REALLY NEED MY HELP THEN WHAT DOES HE NEED FROM ME?

1. My Surrender

What does surrender to Jesus really mean? When I surrender to Jesus.....

I cease my resistance and submit to his authority!

Luke 14:33 (MSG)- “Simply put, if you’re not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can’t be my disciple.”

Romans 10:9-13 (NLT)- “(9)If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10)For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. (11)As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” (12)Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. (13)For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Lord- It fundamentally means master, owner, or one who has supreme power, authority, and control.

REMEMBER WE’RE TALKING ABOUT GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN OF SELFISHNESS!

WHAT DOES JESUS NEED FROM ME? MY SURRENDER!

2. My Trust

Ephesians 3:17-19- (17)“Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. (18)And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. (19)May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.”

I surrender to him and I trust him as my roots go down deep into his love!

AND TALK ABOUT GO AGAINST THE GRAIN OF THE WORLD’S CULTURE....

1 Timothy 6:17 (NLT)- “Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

TALK ABOUT GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN. TRUST GOD AND NOT MONEY!

Trust- trust is the deep inner calm that comes from letting go of control and resting your full weight on your Heavenly Father!

When you trust you replace anxiety with quiet confidence.

When you trust it turns fear of the unknown into peaceful expectations!

JESUS DOESN'T REALLY NEED MY HELP. HE NEEDS MY SURRENDER AND TRUST.

3. My Obedience

Because I'm surrendered to him and I trust him, I will obey him!

Philippians 2:3-8 (NLT)- "(3)Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. (4)Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. (5)You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. (6)Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. (7)Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, (8)he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

TALK ABOUT GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN OF OUR CULTURE!

As those following Jesus Christ we are to have a different attitude: one that enables us to lay aside entitlement in order to serve others!

1 Peter 1:14 (NLT)- "So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then."

CONCLUSION: As a follower of Jesus Christ my life is so much bigger than my little kingdom of one! Here is one of the most overlooked, neglected commands of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)- "(18)Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. (19)Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (20)Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The fact of the matter is that since we have been bought with the blood of Jesus, our lives don't belong to us anymore. We are His possession for His use!

Are you looking for a significant endeavor? Look no further! You have been chosen to be part of the most powerfully transformative work in the history of the universe! GO AGAINST THE GRAIN! GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS!