**I SURRENDER ALL**

Sunday School Lesson 14

*Lessons from the Hymnbook*

Luke 14:33-35

1/15/2023

**Introduction:** As we start lesson 14 of this lesson series, this seems like a fitting time for us to be reminded of the hymns that we have covered so far: *Amazing Grace, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Solid Rock, Jesus Paid It All, Rescue the Perishing, What A Friend, Nothing Between, There Is A Fountain, Hark the Herald, Who Is He in Yonder Stall, Joy to the World. Stepping in the Light,* and *Who Is on the Lord’ Side.* In looking back at this list, we can see that a wide array of topics has been covered in this music study. Out of our thirteen hymns, nine of them have been songs that reflect back to something Christ has done for us or some quality that He has. The other four hymns have been challenges to us on how we are to serve the Lord. For today’s lesson, we are going to add a fifth challenge-oriented song to the list as we study the hymn “I Surrender All.” This hymn was written in 1890 by a man named Judson Van de Venter. Prior to writing this hymn, Venter was an art teacher at a local public school. At the same time, Venter was becoming more and more involved in the church he attended, and he felt that the Lord might be leading him into full-time evangelism. For a little while, he struggled to make the decision to leave his stable job for ministry life. Eventually, he gave in, and it wasn’t long after this that he felt the Lord was laying these lyrics on his heart to write. Let’s consider whether we are willing to truly surrender all to the Lord:

1. **WHEN WE FREELY SURRENDER ALL TO THE LORD, WE SHOW THAT WE TRUST HIM.**
2. **Notice that our surrender means giving everything to the Lord, placing these things in His care (Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 6:33).** The Scripture reveals to us that we are to give our all to the Lord. We are to take all of our problems and cast them on Him. We are to surrender our will and yield it to His will. We are to give our children to the Lord. We are to give our talents to the Lord. We are to give our time to the Lord. We are to give our wealth to the Lord. The Bible has a regular them of sacrificial living for the Christian. We are to give everything up to pursue the kingdom of God first. What does the Bible say after this? It says that all these things shall be added unto you. That’s not to say that we are going to have every single thing in the world that we think that we need. What it is saying is that when we give up all that we have to the Lord, He does not leave us empty handed. He will give us the things that we need, and He will give them to us when we need them. Most people have no problem putting their material wealth in the bank. They trust that bank with all that they have. If we can trust a bank, why can’t we trust God?
3. **Notice that our surrender shows how we trust that the Lord’s presence is sufficient for us (Exodus 33:15; Psalm 16:11; 140:13; Act 3:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:19).** When the disciples surrendered all to the Lord, they showed their trust and love of Him. They showed that they deemed the presence of the Lord more valuable than their material possessions. We see people today who are willing to pay large amounts of money just for the opportunity to meet someone that they deem important. They pay extra for that behind the scenes pass for that favorite celebrity. They trust that the joy or happiness from that encounter is worth the same or more than the money they paid for the experience. This is why sports fans pay big money to sit on an uncomfortable seat instead of sitting on their living room couch. Whose presence would we value enough to give up some of our material possessions for? Hopefully, as believers, we understand that surrendering to the Lord sends the clear message that we trust in the joy that comes at His presence. We let the Lord and everyone else know through our surrender that being with the Lord is absolutely worth it.
4. **WHEN WE SURRENDER ALL TO THE LORD, WE SHOW OUR HUMILITY OF SERVICE.**
5. **Notice that our surrender is prompted by seeing our unworthiness in the sight of the Lord (1 Peter 5:6; James 4:10; Colossians 2:18; Luke 18:14)** When the wise men appeared before the Lord, they offered up gifts of great value. It was a common practice to offer up great gifts when appearing before a king. It was a show of humility and an understanding that the king has your life in his hands. Thus, it should not be hard for us to surrender before the Lord. He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. We ought to be like Mary and be willing to offer up the precious ointment to the service of the Lord. If we are unwilling to surrender, it reveals that we think we are too important or too valuable to give obeisance to the King.
6. **Notice that our surrender should cause us to view our surrendered items as forsaken (Luke 14:33-35).** The word *surrender* is actually never used in the Word of God. The word that we find used instead is *forsake*. To forsake means to abandon something. It means to desert it. It means to quit or leave an item entirely. This means that we don’t surrender all to the Lord just with the hope or even expectation that He is going to give us something of greater material value. It means that we leave these items behind with very little interest in what becomes of them. If the Lord gives them back to us, then that’s great, but if He doesn’t, that’s fine as well. We are able to have this attitude because of humility. The wise men did not give their gifts because they were expecting something to be given back to them from the King of Kings. They simply gave the gifts because they were humbled in the sight of the Lord. Let’s determine not to just surrender the worldly pleasures to the Lord. Let’s determine to totally forsake them. Let’s cast them off and give no attention to them moving forward. We are too busy serving the Master now to care about those items!
7. **WHEN WE SURRENDER ALL TO THE LORD, WE MAKE SPACE FOR THE LORD TO WORK.**
8. **Notice that we have to surrender all, as that is what makes us most useful to the Master (2 Corinthians 12:10; Luke 9:62; Mark 8:34; Matthew 16:24; John 3:30).** The Scripture reveals to us the absolute necessity of surrender. We have to deny ourselves. That should cover every area of our lives. Paul came to understand this. Keep in mind that Paul was an educated man. He was clearly a talented individual who was well regarded by the religious elite of his day. Yet, he tells us in 2 Corinthians that strength came through his own weakness. This is the way that the Lord works. If we do not surrender ourselves, then we in our prideful flesh will be inclined to take credit for that which God is doing. He must increase, but I must decrease. This isn’t a “should” or a “might.” It is a must! There are many Christians today who do not understand why God is unwilling to utilize them for more work in His service. May they understand the need for total surrender!
9. **Notice that we have to surrender all to properly maintain our relationship with His Spirit (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Galatians 5:16-17).** Our flesh and the Holy Spirit are at ought against each other. Thus, it is needful for us to surrender all because it denies the flesh what it wants. If we give in to the lusts of our flesh, we are actively working against the Spirit of God. Many Christians want to hear the Holy Spirit speaking to them, but they hear very little because they are so overwhelmingly led by the desires of their own flesh. Truly, it is a struggle that all of us face. We must quench the flesh to ensure that we do not quench the Spirit. We cannot serve two masters. A house divided against itself will not stand. It will be unstable just as a double minded man is. When we quench the Holy Spirit, we bring about fear and doubt in our lives because we lose sense of the Lord’s leading in our lives. Surrenders should not be the exception among believers. It must be the standard practice. May we live surrendered and Spirit-led lives.
10. **WHEN WE SURRENDER ALL TO THE LORD, WE MAKE SPACE FOR BETTER THINGS.**
11. **Notice that we have to surrender all to allow the Lord’s love to have place in our hearts (1 John 3:10-17; 2 Thessalonians 3:5).** The quality of the love of God is seen in its selflessness. Thus, if we are going to be filled with the love of God, there is no place for self in it. We have to be surrendered. We have to be emptied of our wants and feelings. Consider that the love of God is seen in our care of the brethren. What is the hardest part about loving the brethren? Is it the brethren, or is it our struggle with our own flesh? I believe it's our own flesh that gets in the way. We allow our feelings to get so easily hurt. We allow ourselves to be offended at every little thing. That would not happen if you had surrendered yourself to the Lord. You cannot offend someone who is dead. The love of God is rich and deep. We should want to be filled with the goodness of His love as opposed to our own selfish love and desires.
12. **Notice that we have to surrender all to be filled with His power (Micah 3:8; Acts 6:8; Romans 15:13-19).** This thought goes hand in hand with surrendering to hear His Spirit, as the Bible frequently connects His Spirit with His power. We know that the Lord has not left us powerless. He wants us to have His great power and to use it in this spiritual battle that we are in. Yet, the idea of being “filled” with His power means that there has to be space there for His power to occupy us. I believe that there is a real struggle among Christians to surrender our own power and utilize His power. We know His power is better, but it is the struggle with control that often gets the better of us. Let me end by adding the fifth stanza of this song: “All to Jesus I surrender; Now I feel the sacred flame. Oh, the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory, to his name!