



September 26, 2011

“ Total Surrender to God”

Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind’
Matthew 22:37

Sister to Sister...

Sisters, from the moment of birth, we are taught that successful people never give up. Yet, I have discovered that true success can only be found in complete surrender.

My husband, David, has told this story in some of his sermons and it is perfect for today's devotion.... the story of a little child who was playing with a very valuable vase. The child put his hand into the vase but could not pull it out. His father tried to free the little boy's hand, but couldn't. They were thinking of breaking the vase when the father said, "Son, let's try one more time. Open your hand and hold your fingers out really straight and then pull." The look of alarm on the boy's face surprised the dad until the little boy explained, "Oh no, Father. I can't hold my fingers like that. If I did, I would drop my penny."

Many of us are like that little boy - holding onto something that is keeping us from letting go and letting God have His way in our lives. It doesn't really matter what that something is. If it is keeping us from surrendering to God, it is our captor and we are its hostage.

Jesus longs for us to come to Him in total surrender. Not because He wants to win or prove His power, but because He longs to set us free. **Matthew 22:37** goes straight to the heart of surrender and abandonment when it says, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.*" Let's take a closer look at the meaning of this verse...

“Heart” means **“thought and emotion.”**

“Soul” means **“life or whole person.”**

“Mind” means **“understanding.”**

In other words sisters, to truly experience God, we must lay down everything. Every thought and emotion, every dream and plan, every bit of human knowledge or understanding, our past, present and future - everything! Luke tells us that a certain woman, believed by scholars to be a prostitute, came to Jesus bringing "*an alabaster jar of perfume.*" In Jesus' day, alabaster jars were very common and of little value. It was the substance hidden inside that was so precious. The perfume was the woman's most priceless possession. It was very expensive but very necessary in her line of work as a prostitute, working the streets, selling her body in order to live. The money given to her by the men she slept with paid for the

perfume she brought to Jesus. She could have put a small amount on His feet and it would have been a great financial sacrifice. But she brought it all and she gave it all. She came to God with a “yes” in her heart and a “whatever” in her soul, totally abandoning herself and all that she had to Him. “*Abandon*” literally means “*without restraint or hindrance, a total relinquishment.*” This woman came to Jesus, walking through her shame, straining against every hindrance and relinquishing her old way of life. She came, ignoring the ugly whispers and judgmental stares of those who knew her so well.

Why? I believe she was simply worn out. The emptiness and sin were eating away at her soul. She was tired of being used, unloved and unwanted. She came ready to give up everything and in a desperation that is always winsome to God. He met every need of her heart and changed the course of her life.

Sisters, the only plan that really matters is the one God has for you. Don’t settle for anything less!

Today, He is also calling you to that same kind of abandonment. Are you ready to exchange your life for a life far beyond your greatest hopes and dreams? Are you desperate for Him? The Father is patiently and tenderly calling you to His arms. Come and rest in Him.

Sister’s Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come today, desperately longing for You and seeking Your presence. I also come to You today thanking You for meeting me at my point of need. Continually help me to totally surrender it all to You.

In Jesus’ Name,
Amen.

Bible Search: I am leaving it up to you to find the *answers in the Bible*...if you have any trouble than email me for the answer.

1. Who were Moses’ parents? Exodus 6:20
2. Who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus? Luke 19:2-4
3. What did God give Jonah for a shade? Jonah 4:6
4. What is the longest word in the Bible? Isaiah 8:1
5. Who was the female judge of Israel? Judges 4:4

Sisters Laughter...

What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul.

“*A merry heart does good like a medicine.*” **Proverbs 17:22a (NKJV)**

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?'

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

--Adapted

Note: If you have received this email by someone who has forwarded them on to you and would like to receive them once a week all you have to do is send me your name by sending me an email and I will add you to the weekly emails.

Thank-You, and please sisters, continue to *'encourage one another as you have encouraged me'*!

Your Sister,
Deborah Fox