



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 5

In week 5 of our summer series exploring themes in the songs of our faith, Garrett Mazurek, Pastoral Intern at Providence Church shared a message about surrender. He shared about his own path of surrendering to Jesus even in his corporate workplace. This week, I pray that you'll consider what it is that you are being called to surrender in this season of life.

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: MATTHEW 16.13-16

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ *They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

¹⁵ *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

- There were a lot of people with different opinions about who Jesus was. The same is true today. Jesus asked who "people" say that I am, but then he asked the more important question: "Who do you say that I am?" Religious leaders at the time were skeptical at best. At their core, they felt threatened by this Jesus who performed miracles and professed to be the Son of God. **How is Jesus a threat to the world around us today? How does your life proclaim who Jesus truly is?**
- *Jesus, you are the Son of God, the Messiah, the One who has come to save us. I repent of the ways in which my life has denied that truth, and I ask that you would use me to proclaim you as Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Amen.*

TUESDAY: MATTHEW 16.21-23

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

- Never was it more clear that following Jesus would include suffering. Those who walk most closely with Jesus will see the brokenness and potential violence of the world around them. His first-century disciples lived with this reality like no one else. This is why obedience is such a key piece of surrender. In order for Jesus’ sacrifice to bear fruit in this fallen world, there have to be disciples willing to keep going even when things aren’t going their way. It is human nature to look for ways around suffering—we are designed with survival instincts, but always underneath a disciple’s response is the prayer of Jesus, “...not my will but yours be done.” (See Friday’s passage)
Do you find it more or less difficult to surrender to God when you are walking through challenges?
- *God, I desire to be a faithful disciple. I admit that I would often prefer to skip through the hard chapters of life. Let it be enough for me that you are with me today. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: MATTHEW 16.24-27

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

- The boldness of Jesus to literally carry his cross to the place of crucifixion is beyond our comprehension. But he was saying these words to his disciples before the events had occurred. The physical cross that was ahead of him was already being used as an image to teach his disciples. **What does it mean for you to deny yourself and take up your cross today?**
- *Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice. As I study and contemplate your love for me, teach me what it means for me to sacrifice for your Kingdom. Amen.*

THURSDAY: JAMES 4.6-7

...he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

*“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”*

⁷ *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- Ultimately, the kind of surrender that Garrett taught about, and we sing about in the old hymn, I Surrender All, requires humility. James reminds us how God looks upon the humble. He shows

favor to the humble. In order to submit ourselves to God, we have to put away our own pride—which is easier said than done. **What is one way you may be called to submit yourself to God today?**

- *God, you oppose the proud, and I sometimes struggle with believing that my way is the best. Humble me Lord Jesus, and lead me in the way that leads to life. Amen.*

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 26.38-39

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ *Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*

- It can be comforting to see the Son of God wrestle with impending suffering. It makes sense to us. Even when the ultimate outcome is assured, we would rather take a detour. Still today, I would rather Jesus go directly up to heaven like Elijah before him. But this is our story: God loves us so much that He would put on flesh, identify with our suffering, and make a way to eternal life for us. **What events in your own life or in the world around you lead you to feel overwhelmed with sorrow?**
- *Father, if there is a way around the suffering of this world, please come and take the suffering away. In all things, I trust in you. Amen.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 25.1-6

O LORD, I give my life to you.

² *I trust in you, my God!*

Do not let me be disgraced,

or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.

³ *No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced,
but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.*

⁴ *Show me the right path, O LORD;
point out the road for me to follow.*

⁵ *Lead me by your truth and teach me,
for you are the God who saves me.
All day long I put my hope in you.*

⁶ *Remember, O LORD, your compassion and unfailing love,
which you have shown from long ages past.*

- King David knew as well as anyone that pursuing the heart of God is a journey. It's a path followed by a path, followed by a path. It's why David's constant prayer is to be led in the right path. Our relationship with God through Jesus Christ is the place where we are always seeking to be led. Jesus is the Way! **What decisions are you facing today that will require you to ask for God's leading?**
- *Lord God, lead me in the right paths. Guide me and save me from my own path. I put my hope in Jesus today. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read through (or listen to) the words of the hymn [I Surrender All](#).

1 All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

2 All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine. [Refrain]

3 All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]

- What are the core teachings of this hymn?
- What does it tell us about ourselves?
- What does it tell us about God?
- Underline a phrase that particularly stands out to you today. How can you carry it with you as the song of your heart in the days to come?