



HILLSIDE'S JULY – AUGUST SERMON SERIES AND DAILY MATERIAL

It is not easy to follow the Lord Jesus.

He said things that sometimes seem to us to be impossible or undoable. Should you mutilate yourself (“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off”) or love your enemies (“I tell you: love your enemies”) or never find fault (“Do not judge”)?

But behind all these statements of Jesus there are the most wonderful keys to life. Not only do they make life possible, but are secrets that create the way for us to a meaningful life and good relationships.

Week 1: The Key of Being Poor in Spirit

Week 2: The Key of Commitment

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MONDAY

Daily Reading

Week 2: The Key of Commitment

John 19: 28-37

JESUS' COMMITMENT

John 19:3 *"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."
With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."*

"Hearing the Good News is the beginning: the rest of your life is your response to it."
William Countryman

"There are only two things we should do with the Gospel: believe it and live it."
Susanna Wesley

This passage spells out Jesus' commitment to us. He did not cower away when His life was threatened. He carried out the Father's instructions to the end. Jesus' commitment cost Him His life. Jesus left heaven and came and lived on earth in the likeness of a slave so that we could be set free. As a human being, He hungered, was cold and became tired, but that did not stop Him from persevering to the end. He did it for you, the question now is: How strong is your commitment to Jesus? Because Jesus was determined and obedient to convince man of the Father's love. He demands total surrender and commitment to Himself.

You are precious and that is why God paid dearly with His blood to unite you with Himself. Choose again today to pledge your all to Him to the end. Jesus, all for Jesus!

Prayer: Jesus thank you for your commitment to save me. Holy Spirit, give me the same attitude to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Amen.

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TUESDAY

Daily Reading

Week 2: The Key of Commitment

Luke 18: 18-30

SELL EVERYTHING

Luke 18:22 *“When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*

“If you can’t go all the way, then why even start?”

Joe Namath

In this passage, Jesus tests the rich man’s determination to put God first in his life. The man appears to be a believer: “I have kept the commandments since I was a boy,” he says, Jesus knows that, but He also knows that the man loves his possessions more than God.

It is not a sin to be rich, and Jesus Himself said that it is not impossible for rich people to go to heaven because God’s grace is sufficient for all people. You are important and valuable to Jesus, not your possessions. Therefore, your security must be in God, not in your possessions.

Think about your priorities in life. What do you spend most of your time, attention and money on, and where does your relationship with God fit in? Do you, your wallet and everything you own, belong to God? Serve the Lord fully with what you own.

Prayer: Lord, here I am and everything I have. Use me as Your instrument to show Your love to the world. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY

Daily Reading

Week 2: The Key of Commitment

Matthew 22: 34-40

ALL I AM BELONGS TO YOU

Matthew 22:37 *“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

“It is only by perseverance that the snail made it to the ark in time.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

In Exodus 20:5 we read that the Lord is a jealous God who demands undivided faithfulness to Him. We cannot serve God with divided attention. Every part of our being should long after God; every part of our humanity should be committed to God – our will, feelings and thoughts.

† Will – my decisions belong to God. I will seek the Lord’s will in everything because my will is subjected to God’s will for my life.

† Feelings – there where no one else can see, in the deepest part of your humanity; that too should belong to God.

† Thoughts – my thoughts should deliberately be focused on God and His will.

*Prayer: Father, I confess that I do not serve You with my whole being. Today I choose again
to love You with my will, feelings and thoughts. Amen.*

THURSDAY

Daily Reading

Week 2: The Key of Commitment

Ruth 1:6-18

LOYALTY

Ruth 1: 16-17 ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."
(New International Version)

*"Life has its dark times, when there is no other option but to keep on and to hold on to God."
No, more than that: To allow Him to hold on to you."*
William Barclay

Ruth is an example to us of a loyal person. She had to pay a high price and make sacrifices to go with Naomi because she regarded Naomi's well-being as more important than her own needs. These days, loyalty is not valued highly. My needs and that which benefits me are often what determine the choices I make. God demands that we choose His will above our own. Our loyalty to God does not depend on what I receive from Him, but on my willingness to give up things to follow Him.

Prayer: Father, help me to keep serving You whole-heartedly and to choose Your will above my own will this day. Amen.

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FRIDAY

Daily Reading

Week 2: The Key of Commitment

Revelation 3:14-22

HOT OR COLD?

Revelation 3:15-16 *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*

"We may be free to choose, but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choices."
Selwyn Hughes.

The day when we accepted the Lord as our Saviour, we were boiling hot and blazing for Him. Often, with time, our zeal for the Lord cools down. That is unacceptable to God. To help you to stay passionate for the Lord, you have to do some basic things:

- † Spend time in His word.
- † Pray regularly.
- † Deliberately witness about God's miracles and goodness in your life.
- † Be actively involved in the community of believers.

A coal that lies far from the others in a fire quickly loses its heat. To constantly stay "hot" will require that you make sacrifices. The reward for staying "hot" is the conviction that you will see the Kingdom of God.

Prayer: Father, make me so "hot" that I will ignite other "lukewarm" children of Yours again.
Amen.

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SATURDAY

Daily Reading

Week 2: The Key of Commitment

2 Corinthians 11: 16-33

HARDSHIPS FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST

2 Corinthians 11: 24-25 *“Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea.”*

*If you build your life on your principles,
a big percentage of your choices have been made in advance.”*

James Russell Lowell

Paul experienced all these hardships, but that did not diminish his zeal and love for the Lord. The possibility that he might have been killed did not cause him to shy away from his calling to take the Gospel to the heathen nations. Every hardship only made him more determined to complete his task. IN the same way there are many Christians who have lost their lives and who are still persecuted for the sake of the Gospel. May they and Paul inspire you today to persevere in your relationship with God.

Use every opportunity to witness and do not fear the possible consequences of your testimony and choices. Thank God every day for the privilege of being able to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus in freedom.

*Prayer: Lord, strengthen my inner person to be able to witness with boldness
and to always remember that You paid dearly for my salvation. Amen.*
