

SURRENDERED | 2-7-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

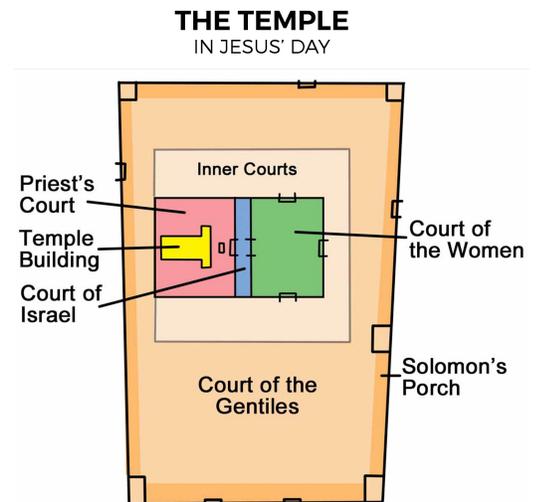
What would it have been like to be a disciple of Jesus? To see the miracles, hear His parables, & experience His personality firsthand? What do you think Jesus was like, as a man? Can we know Him now like they knew Him then? A disciple is someone who is surrendered to God, continually changed by the Holy Spirit, and empowered to live like Jesus. What does surrendering to God look like for you?

READ: *Matthew 9:9*

In Jesus' day, if you were talking about the worst kind of people, it would go "thieves, murderers, and tax collectors," each one progressing as the worst. Tax collectors were so despised because they were infamous for cheating, stealing, and taking advantage of people. Matthew was one of these men. Put yourself in Matthew's shoes. What was it about Jesus that caused Matthew to drop everything and follow Him?

READ: *Luke 18:9-14*

Look at the Temple Diagram to the right. When the two men walked into the Temple, the tax collector could only go into the Court of Gentiles. The Pharisee was allowed into the Priest's Court. God's Presence resided in the Holy of Holies inside the Temple Building. The closer you got to the Temple Building, the closer you were to God's presence. Who did Jesus tell this story to (see vs. 9)? What words would you use to describe the Pharisee? The tax collector? Even though the Pharisee was closer to God's presence, why was the tax collector justified but not the Pharisee? How did the tax collector model what it means to surrender to God? Gut-check: do you act more like the Pharisee or tax collector?



READ: *Matthew 9:10-13*

Why did Matthew throw a party? Who did he invite? What was he hoping to accomplish? Why did the Pharisees criticize Jesus? Why is mercy more important than sacrifice? What is the difference between people who think they are righteous and people who know they are sinners? To what degree of surrender did the Pharisees have toward God? What degree of surrender did Matthew have toward God? What lasting impact did Matthew the Tax Collector make because he fully surrendered to Jesus?

CHALLENGE

The degree to which you surrender to God is the degree to which you make lasting impact. How surrendered are you? Get quiet & experience the love of God. Allow His love to move you to greater surrender.

PRAYER

Father, forgive me for my self-righteousness. Humble me. I surrender to Your great love.

Written by John Grandy, Dalton Campus Pastor