

YOUNG **Disciple** magazine

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INSIDE!

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HAPPY HOME 20

as told by Mrs. D. O. Hopkins

DADD



Photo: Ted Evert

A Defense of

YISMS

Part 1

Price Thompson's sweet voice trilled through the open window of her room. Passers-by smiled at the melody, but Mrs. Vining frowned and shook her head. Years of renting out rooms to college girls had made her extra-sensitive to their temperaments. "Something's the matter with Price," she murmured. "Something about her voice—I just know it!"

Up in her room, Price sank onto the bed and held a photo frame at arm's length. She shook her head. "It's no use, Daddy; I can't accept the invitation with your dear eyes looking at me that way." She sighed. "Jasmine and Kate will be here in half an hour. So down on your face you go, Daddy—you and all your 'isms' right here on the windowsill. I'm going to put it out of my thoughts for a few minutes while I practice. Then maybe I can make up my mind."

Price seated herself at the keyboard and played an arpeggio. Then, throwing back her head, she set free a riot of

notes and trills. Suddenly, she stopped and rushed to the window. "I thought so!" She gazed up at a military jet silhouetted in the sky. Shading her eyes, she watched until it melted into the distance. "I simply must go!"

Since Price had been a toddler, she had been fascinated by airplanes and the men who flew them. And now, for the first time in her life, she had an opportunity to meet real pilots and see their planes. Jasmine and Kate had offered to drop by with Jasmine's Mustang convertible on their way to the air base. "The airmen are loads of fun," they had told Price. "Come out to the base. Once they meet you, you'll have more dates than you'll know what to do with."

Price bit her lip. She had made up her mind not to date until she had finished her studies—and "Mr. Right" came along. Still, it would be fun to meet the men who flew the planes. Maybe they'd even let her climb inside an aircraft. She didn't need to act like



Jasmine and Kate, with their miniskirts and flirty giggles.

Of course, there was another little problem. This afternoon she was scheduled to help with the church's weekly children's program at the homeless shelter. Just yesterday Mrs. Boone had told her how much the children looked forward to her singing. "They seem to sense how much you love them," she had said.

Price frowned. "They'll soon forget their disappointment," she muttered. "Besides, Mrs. Boone was probably just buttering me up."

Six Daddyisms

A tap sounded at the door. "Can I come in?" Mrs. Vining called.

Price opened the door. "You're just in time, Mrs. Vining. I need your advice."

The older lady smiled. "Choice of breakfast food, color of a new dress, or selection of toothpaste—lay out the problem, dear; I'm ready!"

"I'm serious, Mrs. Vining." Price told of the invitation, and how she would like to go, but could not quite feel at peace about it.

"Are Jasmine and Kate special friends of yours?" Mrs. Vining's deep, steady gaze said enough to make words unnecessary.

"No, just acquaintances from college."

Mrs. Vining stood up. "Well, I have a cake in the oven." Reaching into the deep pocket of her apron, she pulled out the frame Price had placed on the windowsill. "Here's something I found in

Price frowned. "They'll soon forget their disappointment."

the front yard a few minutes ago.”

Price sucked in her breath. “Oh, my ‘Daddyisms’! What if someone else had picked them up? I know them all by heart, but I’d still hate to lose them.” She pointed to the photo in the corner. “That’s my daddy.”

“Sounds mysterious—and interesting. Would you mind sharing them with me?”

“They’re just little nuggets of Daddy’s advice,” Price explained. “There are six ‘Daddyisms,’ as I call them:

“When in doubt—don’t. Instead, do something you know is right.”

“Miss Flirt is not worthy of Mr. True-heart.”

“Self-control is true victory.”

“Deep souls run in a different channel from the foolish, gossipy shallows.”

“The triumph of a life is what really counts, not indulgence of one’s desires.”

“Be modest, innocent, sincere. Be different from the crowd.”

“Profound.” Mrs. Vining nodded. “Next to them, my advice would be superfluous.” She sniffed the air. “Is my cake burning? Please excuse me, dear.” Her gray head disappeared through the door.

Price patted the frame lovingly, then hung it back over her desk. “Good old Daddy. I can look at you straight now. The airmen shall not be disturbed by me. Instead, I’ll teach the children a new song.”

Interested onlooker

A little later, a pink-cheeked girl poked her head through the sitting room door at Cunnington Home.

“Ooh-ooh! Here she is! Here’s our singing girl! She said she’d come.” The shout brought a flock of excited children dancing around Price.

“Singin’ gull,” echoed the small-

est girl. Reaching out with one daring finger, she touched Price’s hand. The touch brought tears to Price’s eyes. How could she ever have thought of deserting these precious children?

“Are you ready to sing? Let’s start with ‘Count Your Blessings.’”

The children cheered as Price sat down at the piano, and soon their happy voices filled the dingy room. No one noticed when a lady entered and quietly greeted Mrs. Boone.

“Is that the girl?” she whispered.

Mrs. Boone nodded. “I think I told you she is a freshman at Grace College. She has faithfully come each Thursday afternoon. The children adore her, Mrs. Griggs. Just look!”

“Wonderful voice, sweet face, winning personality, modest clothes.” Mrs. Griggs nodded. “I have a feeling she is just the treasure we need for tonight. Thanks for the referral.” The lady smiled with satisfaction.

At the end of the program, Price lingered a few moments to give each child a hug. Then she turned to slip away.

“Just a minute, Price,” Mrs. Boone called. “My friend, Mrs. Griggs, would like to meet you.”

Price’s stomach lurched as her feet froze to the floor. Surely this wasn’t *the* Mrs. Griggs—one of the wealthiest ladies in the state and a well-known patron of the arts. It was the dream of every music major at the college to meet Mrs. Griggs—and here she was, asking for an introduction! It was almost too much to take in!

Mrs. Griggs smiled warmly as she shook Price’s hand. “Can I give you a lift home?” she asked. “I want to speak with you.”

(To be continued.)

NIGHT OF



I slumped at the supper table—silent and sullen. Why did we have to move, anyway? I knew the answer, but I didn't want to face it. In all of my sixteen years, I had never gone through anything like this.

I glared at Daddy. "I'm sorry," he said. "I know you don't want to move." He glanced over at Mom. "I—I just don't know if we can afford staying where we are. Finances have been really tight—"

I didn't care what he thought. I knew I should be willing to go—happy to do anything that would help our family. But to that house—why, he just

expected too much!

The house had belonged to my great-grandmother, but now sat empty. Well, not totally empty! Ants, spiders, and wasps regularly ate and slept there, and I did not want to sleep, eat, or step foot in that house. Not only that, but the house was blue! I don't mean dull blue. It was a shocking, electric blue. That blaring color covered the outside walls, the inside walls, the plates and dishes, even the vases and knickknacks. Me? Live *there*? I just couldn't fathom it!

"You know that there is a lot we could do with that house," Daddy's

DECISION

by Jill Morikone



voice broke through my thoughts.

What did that matter? I was not going to live there. They would just have to move without me! After all, I was sixteen years old; I could make my own decisions.

Or could I? Suddenly, the Holy Spirit began working on my heart. What had happened to my commitment to Jesus? Hadn't I surrendered myself to Him that very morning? But then, I hadn't known about this plan to move. I gritted my teeth. I was willing to surrender in most things—but what if He said I had to move to that house? I just couldn't!

Daddy sat quietly for a few minutes. I didn't say a word. After a bit, he touched my arm. "What are you thinking about?"

I opened my mouth and closed it. Somehow, I could not bring myself to say what I was thinking. Finally I blurted, "Submission."

His face relaxed. "I know this is difficult for you. Why don't you pray about it tonight, and we'll talk again in the morning. Mom and I will pray, too."

Alone with my thoughts, the Holy

Spirit spoke again, but I refused to listen. Instead, I stormed upstairs to my bedroom, struggled into my pajamas, yanked back the covers, and jerked into bed. I lay there, trying to sleep. But I hadn't prayed. How could I? I did not want to submit, so how could I pray?

Sleep wouldn't come. I tossed and turned for hours. I had no peace. Finally, I slid out of bed, knelt in the moonlight shining through the window, and poured out my heart to God. When I finished, I had perfect peace.

I returned to bed and dropped off to sleep almost before my head touched the pillow. The next thing I knew, sunlight was streaming into my room. The birds sang and so did my heart! I skipped downstairs and told my mom and dad that I was willing to move.

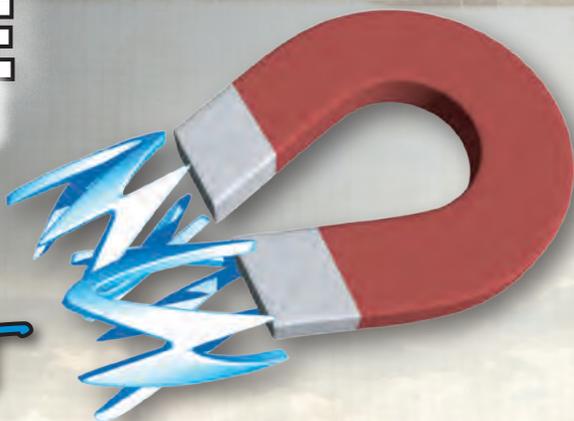
A week later, Mom and Dad decided that we would not move, after all! But I was glad for the struggle I had passed through. I had surrendered my heart to God—and by His grace it would stay there. 

Jill and her husband, Greg Morikone, minister at 3ABN. Jill is also a music teacher. She wrote this story as a sophomore in college.

ABSOLUTE SURRENDER

Part 1

DIVINE MAGNET



“Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given” (*Steps to Christ*, page 91).

MEMORY TEXT:

“The king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have” (1 Kings 20:4).

PROJECT: MEMORY – Ephesians 6:1–18

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:1–3).

By following Project: Memory each week, you will memorize the entire passage by the end of the quarter!

WELCOME to the *Young Disciple Bible Lessons!*

Youth of many different ages study YD’s Bible lessons, because they include features for all, from the youngest junior to those ready for the deeper things of God’s Word.

When you were younger, your Bible lessons were very simple. You usually just read—or listened to—a Bible story, and perhaps answered a few questions. You were blessed by what Peter calls the “milk of the word” (1 Peter 2:2). But we can’t live on milk forever. There’s so much more in the Bible waiting to be discovered.

The YD Bible lessons help you move past being a “baby” in the Word. As you study, you will find new and exciting ways to make God’s Word real in your life—and you will grow more like Him each day!

Here’s how to use the lessons:

Core Concept: This basic section is simple enough for even the youngest readers. It is also the foundation for the rest of the lesson.

Study for Yourself: This section helps you move past filling in the blanks to discovering what God has to say to you personally.

Dig Deeper: These suggestions are for readers ready for deeper Bible study. Expect thought-provoking assignments and challenges. We suggest you designate a special Bible study notebook to record your findings.

Puzzles and activities: Hands-on, creative activities to reinforce the day’s lesson. Enjoy! To read the answers, turn the magazine upside down and hold it in front of a mirror.

Bible memory sections: Reminders and activities to encourage you to hide God’s Word in your heart every day. If you follow the Project: Memory suggestions, you will memorize the entire passage by the end of the quarter.

God will bless you as you spend time with Him each day!

CORE CONCEPT

Benhadad, the king of Syria, wanted to conquer Israel. He gathered all his host, which included _____ kings with their H _____ and C _____. They went up to Samaria, the capital of Israel, and B _____ it (1 Kings 20:1).

After Benhadad surrounded Samaria, he sent a message to King Ahab of Israel: "Thy _____ and thy _____ is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine" (verse 3).

What a demand! Benhadad wasn't

asking for a few thousand shekels, or even some of Ahab's best horses and chariots. He wanted *everything!*

Ahab had to make a choice to give Benhadad what he wanted, or to defy him and fight. No doubt he thought it over very carefully. And then he sent Benhadad his answer:

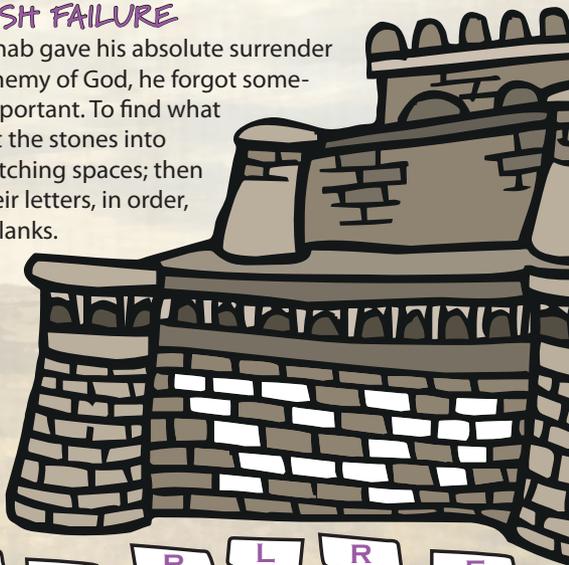
"My _____, O king, according to thy saying, I am _____, and _____ that I have" (verse 4). King Ahab didn't hold anything back. He made an *absolute* surrender!

STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

You and I are also under siege. Not one, but two kingdoms are asking for our absolute surrender. What are they, and how do we show which kingdom we are serving? Read Romans 6:16.

FOOLISH FAILURE

When Ahab gave his absolute surrender to the enemy of God, he forgot something important. To find what it was, fit the stones into their matching spaces; then write their letters, in order, on the blanks.



"In the LORD JEHOVAH IS

DIG DEEPER

In this encounter with Benhadad, Ahab could have learned valuable lessons about the meaning of absolute surrender to God. Read the rest of 1 Kings 20. When did Ahab realize he could not satisfy Benhadad? What does this teach about Satan's relentless demands? Why did God help Ahab? How did Ahab show his lack of full commitment to God? What was the result?

Memory Text

Use the letters to learn 1 Kings 20:4. TKOIAAS, ML, OK, ATTS, IAT, AATIH.

int'l: 1-800-421-2345 (toll-free)
 954-443-2345 (local)

Benhadad asked Ahab for absolute surrender. Is that what Ahab gave him? See 1 Kings 20:4. _____

We, too, are called to make an absolute surrender. In Proverbs 23:26, God sends us His special appeal: "My son, give Me thine _____." God is not asking for just part of your heart: He wants you to have the blessing that comes with giving Him the whole thing!

He says:

* "Blessed are they that . . . seek Him with the _____ heart" (Psalm 119:2).

* "Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with _____ your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

How should we respond to God's gentle invitation? Write Ahab's message of absolute surrender, found in 1 Kings 20:4. _____

Are you willing to say this to God?

NO END!

Would you like to know how much God can do with you? It can happen only if you give Him permission to do it! Circle each word or phrase that relates in some way to how we should respond to His call to our hearts. If you aren't sure of the meaning of a word, look it up! When you write the first letter of each circled word or phrase, in order, on the blanks, you will find an important truth.

ALTOGETHER • HALF-HEARTED • GRUDGING • BOUNDLESS • SOMETIMES • SUPREME • BLAH • YES, BUT • OUTRIGHT • I GUESS SO • LIMITLESS • UNCONDITIONAL • WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT • TOTAL • ENTIRE • PARTIAL • SUBMISSION • LIMITED • IF IT'S EASY • UNRESERVED • UNWILLING • RELUCTANT • RELINQUISH • RENOUNCE • RESENTFUL • END RESISTANCE • NO OPPOSITION • RESIST • DEFERENCE • FIGHT BACK • EVERYTHING • COMPLAINING • RELENT • INCOMPLETE

If you will give God

there is no end to what God will do in you and through you and for you!



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

In which verse of Joel 2 does God ask for all your heart? _____ In Bible times, people often tore their garments to show their sorrow for their sins, but what does God say is more important to *rend*, or to break? See verse 13. _____



DIG DEEPER

What actions must go along with giving God our whole heart? Study Joel 2:12, 13. What do these things show? Read 1 Kings 8:46–50; 2 Chron. 7:12–14. If we don't repent of our wrongs, are we really giving Him *all* of our heart?

Memory Text

Review 1 Kings 20:4 and then write it, from memory, as an official notice addressed to your King. Tape it in your Bible or in a place where you will see it often.

CORE CONCEPT

God's Word teaches that He is "the _____ of _____" (Psalm 36:9). This means, of course, that He created us, and that He gave us our life and breath. But the blessings from the fountain of life don't stop there.

✦ Do you want real power in your life, so that you can say and do and think what is right? _____

You will find it only at the fountain of life!

✦ Do you want to be the kind of person who is good from the inside out? _____

It can happen only if you go to the fountain of life!

Every good thing in the entire universe comes from God. He created the sun, the moon, the stars, the flowers, the trees,

and the grass. And ever since their creation, these things have been absolutely surrendered to Him.

Imagine what would happen if the sun surrendered only *part* of itself to God's will. Sometimes it would shine; sometimes it wouldn't. Think what would happen if the trees began growing down instead of up! We can thank God this isn't so. Even the smallest lily is totally yielded to God!

 **Think About It!** God offers to work "in you both to _____ and to _____ of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). Can God do this work in you if you are only partly surrendered to Him? See today's puzzle for the answer.



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

Sometimes we think we can obey God by trying very hard, but that is impossible. When we surrender our lives to Him, offering ourselves as His servants, what kind of obedience will we give? See Ephesians 6:6.

WHAT GOD CAN'T DO!

God's power is endless—but there is something that even He cannot do. To find what it is, transform the letters into words, and then fit them in their correct places in the sentence. (CLUE: Each word is scrambled in the same pattern.)

TMRRARONFS

GERCA

WGINLIL

WLIL

CYOTNIFMOR



DIG DEEPER

Ps. 68:35 tells us where our strength and power come from. What other verses can you find with a similar message? For starters, see Phil. 4; Eph. 3; Isa. 40; Ps. 29; 1 Chron. 29; James 1.

God cannot _____ A _____ O _____
 us by His _____ A _____ E until we are
 _____ I _____ I _____ to have our _____ I _____ brought
 into perfect _____ O _____ O _____ I _____ with
 His will.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be transformed into the image of Christ. (2 Cor. 3:18)

Project: Memory

Use the letters to learn Ephesians 6:1, 2. Then look ahead and read through verse 3 three times. C, OYPITL: FTIR. HTFAM; (WITFCWP);

What does it mean to have absolute surrender? Just look around you!

- Pick up a pen and write your name. That pen is absolutely surrendered to your hand. But if someone else is also holding the pen, will it write properly?

- Look at the shoes on your feet. In order for them to be useful to you, they must be absolutely surrendered to your feet. If someone else is also trying to wear your shoes, will they do either of you any good? _____

These everyday illustrations help us understand why God asks for our abso-

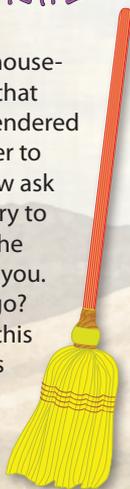
lute surrender to Him. He can never work out His will in us, every day and hour, if we are also trying to keep control.

In ancient Israel, after Solomon finished building the temple, he **D**_____ it to the Lord (1 Kings 8:63). After the dedication, God hallowed this temple, and promised that His **H**_____ would always be there (1 Kings 9:3).

1 Corinthians 3:16 says, “Ye are the _____ of God.” God wants to dwell in us, and work in us in mighty ways. But first, He needs our dedication—our absolute surrender.

DEMONSTRATE IT!

Find several household objects that must be surrendered to you in order to be useful. Now ask someone to try to use them at the same time as you. How does it go? Discuss how this demonstrates the principle of absolute surrender.



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. Who really owns your body temple?

He claims it! He is worthy of it! And He cannot work out His blessed will in your life until you surrender it!



DIG DEEPER

Read the story of the temple dedication in 2 Chron. 5, 6, 7 or 1 Kings 8, 9:1–9. What can you learn about the dedication of your own soul-temple, and God’s promises to you when you fully surrender?

Project: Memory

Review Ephesians 6:1, 2. Then use the letters to learn verse 3. TIMBWWT, ATMLLOTE.



“Only when we give ourselves wholly to God can He live and work in us.”

—Lydia Keener

CORE CONCEPT

Have you ever felt that absolute surrender is just too hard? Do you fear that you would have to give up too much? Do you imagine that you would have to go through too much trouble and agony? If so, ask yourself this: *Why do I have such cruel thoughts about God?*

- * He has great **L**_____ for you (Ephesians 2:4).
- * He wants you to have the **P**_____ and **J**_____ that come with a life of **R**_____ (Romans 14:17).

* He does not even expect you to surrender by yourself. Instead, He offers to work "in you that which is _____ in His sight" (Hebrews 13:21).

Imagine it! The everlasting God Himself will come into our hearts and transform them. He offers to take out what is wrong, conquer what is evil, and put in what is good and holy. What reason could there be not to let Him?



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

When we allow God to work in our hearts, He creates new thoughts and feelings. What verse in Ezekiel 36 promises that we will *lothe* (loathe) our old, evil ways after He has done this for us? _____



DIG DEEPER

How do you know God has good thoughts and intentions toward you? Make a list of reasons, and back them up with Bible texts. Then read Jer. 29:11–14; 31:3; Ps. 40:5. If God thinks this way toward you, what kind of thoughts should you have toward Him?

THOUGHTS OF LOATHING!

Most of us loathe something. Think of something you strongly dislike, and write or draw it below. When you feel this strongly about sin, what will you do? Write your answer in the second box.

I loathe . . .

When I loathe the sin this much, I will . . .

Memory Text & Project: Memory

Review Ephesians 6:1–3 and 1 Kings 20:4. Is there a connection between honoring and obeying our parents and surrendering to God?

"God knows what's best, and He loves me. When I put myself totally in His hands, I can have peace in knowing that He is in control."

—Jade McClellan



Deep in your heart, do you want to trust the Lord completely with your life? _____

If so, Jesus has special words for you: "Be of good _____; it is I; be not _____" (Matthew 14:27).

All the searchings and longings in your heart are the drawings of the divine magnet, Jesus. He says, "I have _____ thee with an everlasting _____: therefore with loving-

kindness have I _____ thee" (Jeremiah 31:3).

Is there something holding you back—some sacrifice you are afraid to make? *Take courage, dear child of God! Throw away every fear!* Come to God, just as you are. Let Him show you how gracious He is.

Remember this: **God will never ask you to do anything without giving you the grace to do it!**

FEEBLE PRAYER!

If you don't feel that you have the strength to surrender all to Jesus, there is still something you can say to Him—and that He will gladly answer. To find what it is, circle each YES in the word groups below. The remaining letters will spell a message when you read the left side and then the right, starting with the most feeble-looking letters, and continuing to the strongest.

ASYESWIL
EYESLING
LEYESME
LOYESM
PYESE
RDYESAK

"_____, _____"

 _____"



STUDY FOR YOURSELF!

What did Jesus do to draw us to Him? See John 12:32. _____

If Jesus was willing to go so far to draw you to Himself, do you think He will help you give Him your absolute surrender? _____



DIG DEEPER

Abraham is an amazing example of a man who was willing to give God absolute surrender. What was his greatest surrender? What was the result? Read the story in Gen. 22. What other examples of his total surrender to God can you find in the surrounding chapters?

Project: Memory

Recite Ephesians 6:1–3, emphasizing each reason we should submit to our parents.

Answer key: "I will be willing to..."



"When I see how Jesus gave His all for me, and the great value of the blessings He gives me, I want to give Him every part of my heart!"

—Heidi Maekawa

SUMMARY

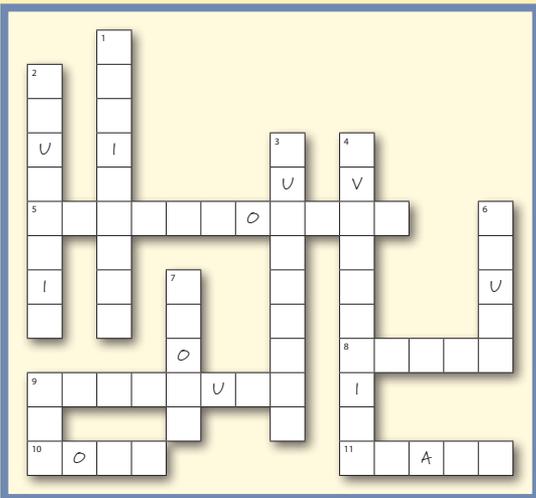
Crossword! Find the answers to the clues in this week's lesson. The numbers in parentheses are the day of the lesson with the answer.

Across:

- 5 A changed heart has been _____ (5)
- 8 What we should surrender to God (2)
- 9 With 3 down, what God asks of us (2)
- 10 God draws us with this (6)
- 11 God transforms us through this power (3)

Down:

- 1 The temple was _____, and we should be, too (4)
- 2 God is the _____ of life (3)
- 3 With 9 across, what God asks of us (2)
- 4 How much Benhadad asked of Ahab (1)
- 6 When we _____ God, we can surrender (6)
- 7, 9 How much of the heart we must surrender (2)



DOWN: 1: U, I; 2: O; 3: U; 4: V; 6: U; 7: O; 9: U; 11: A. ACROSS: 5: O; 8: I; 9: U; 10: O; 11: A.



DIG DEEPER

Read Gen. 13, 14, looking for ways Abraham and Lot showed a surrendered or unsundered heart. What relevance does this story have for us today?

Memory Challenge!

Recite the first three verses of Ephesians 6. After each verse, say a way your parents show their love for you. Now kneel and recite the second part of 1 Kings 20:4 in the form of a prayer.

Of All The Week
THE BEST



Surrender Stories

Preparation: Ahead of time, find stories of well-known armies and/or generals who were faced with the decision to surrender. (EXAMPLES: Japan in World War II; General Robert E. Lee in the Civil War, etc.) They should be stories that can illustrate our surrender to God and/or the dangers of delaying surrender. If possible, ask a good storyteller to read them ahead of time and be prepared to share them. Also make copies of *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pages 141–143, or ask participants to bring their own copy, so that everyone can read along.

Action: After prayer, share the surrender stories. After

each one, discuss why each surrendered, what would have been different if there had been no surrender, and what would have been different if the surrender had come sooner. Discuss the parallels to surrendering to God.

Application: Go around the circle, each person reading a paragraph from *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, pages 141–143. Is this the way we usually think of the Christian battle? What do we have to fight? What do we have to surrender? End with a prayer of commitment, asking for God's help in making the surrender.

Knock,



One of the most poignant verses in the Bible is found in Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

Jesus has not isolated Himself behind closed doors somewhere. He doesn't require us to look high and low for Him, that we might somehow find Him. Instead, we are the ones who hide from Him while He faithfully searches for each of us. "He is knocking for entrance, and there are some poor souls who are inquiring how they shall find Jesus. Why, dear souls, Jesus has been hunting for you, and He stands at your door knocking. . . . Doubting souls, unbelieving souls, will you open the door? Jesus is standing at the door of your heart. Let Him in, the Heavenly Guest."

—Manuscript Releases, Volume 2, pages 161, 162

Knock!

Someone was standing at my door. I peered through the viewing hole. You can't be too cautious, you know.

When I saw who was there, my heart leaped with joy. I threw the door open. "Come in," I cried. "Make my heart Your home, and use it as Your own."

Jesus smiled. He seemed pleased at my invitation.

Jesus followed me into the living room. I liked this room. It was warm and quiet. There was a comfortable

couch and a fire blazing in the hearth.

Jesus smiled. "This is a delightful place," He told me. "We could meet here every day, to fellowship and share our hearts together."

I thrilled at the thought of spending time alone with Jesus, every day!

"Let's meet here first thing each morning," Jesus suggested. "We'll start the day together."

(To be continued.)

We thank Robert Boyd Munger for the inspiration for this thought-provoking series.

"How is it that so many of you are saying you do not know whether you are accepted of God or not; that you want to find Jesus? Don't you know whether you have opened the door? Don't you know whether you have invited Him in? If you have not, invite Him now. Don't wait a moment. Open the door, and let Jesus in."

—1888 Materials, page 905

HERETIC!

On Trial

THE LEGACY OF
JOHN HUSS
PART 14

What's happening: In 1415, the Council of Constance burns John Huss at the stake. Meanwhile, his friend and disciple, Jerome, is imprisoned. Jerome fears the stake so much that he wavers and retracts his faith. However, his heart breaks as he realizes what he has done. "No!" he cries. "Even if I should have to stand at the stake a hundred ages, I will not deny my Savior."

Jerome languished in prison nearly a year before he was taken to trial. Finally, on May 23, 1416, soldiers led him before the council.

The council members knew that Jerome was an eloquent speaker, and they seemed determined not to let him speak before the assembly. "You must limit your defenses to a simple 'yes' or 'no,'" they told him.

"What injustice! What cruelty!" Jerome exclaimed. "For 340 days you have shut me in a frightful prison, in the midst of filth, stench, and utmost want. You then bring me out before you, but refuse to hear me. If you are truly wise men, and the lights of the world, take care not to sin against justice. As for me, I am only a feeble mortal, and my life has little importance. When I exhort you not to deliver an unjust sentence, I speak less for myself than for you."

The council broke into such an uproar that Jerome's words were drowned out. However, Jerome stood as calmly as a rock in the midst of a sea of passion. Although he was surrounded with darkened, scowling faces, his own countenance breathed peace and glowed with courage.

When the storm finally subsided, the council agreed to allow Jerome to speak in three days' time. On that day, before

he spoke, Jerome knelt in the presence of the council and earnestly prayed that God would so guide his heart and mouth that he would not say one false or unworthy word. Then turning to the assembly, he reviewed the long roll of men who had stood before unrighteous tribunals and been condemned. He next gave the testimony of how God had worked in his own life. Finally, he reviewed the accusations that had been made against him, admitting what was true, and disproving what was false. Sometimes he spoke so pleasantly that the stern faces around him relaxed into smiles. At other times, he spoke so strongly that the smiles changed to frowns of rage. Then, he would change to such poignancy that the stern-faced judges felt their hearts melting. As Jerome spoke, even his enemies had to admire his clear logic, his amazing memory, and his marvelous eloquence. “Not once during the whole discourse,” wrote Poggio of Florence,¹ “did he express a thought which was unworthy of a man of integrity.”

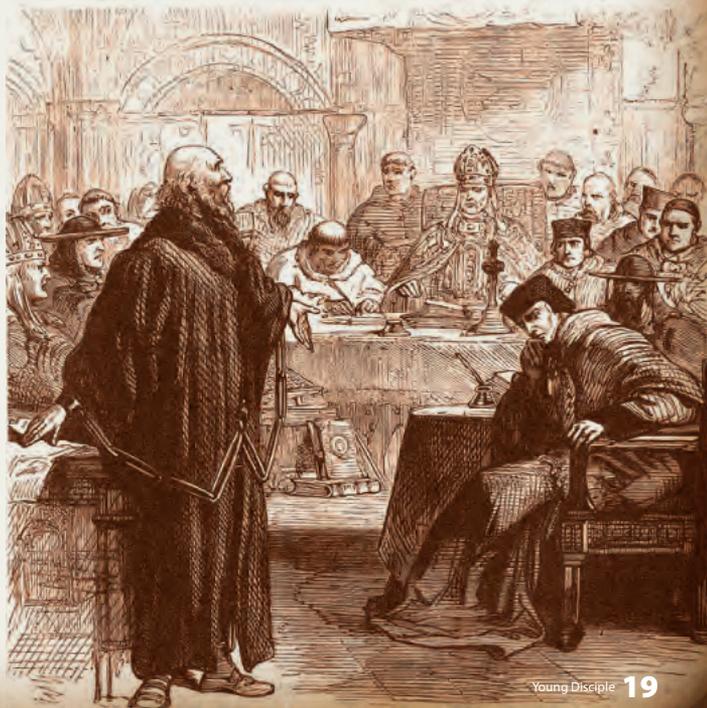
Jerome did not appear to be pleading to be spared from the stake. In fact, he did not even seem to care about his life. He no longer had any fear of the stake. His only goal was to defend and exalt the cause of God.

Jerome had been locked up in a dark dungeon for nearly a year. During this time, he had not been able to see or read or write. Yet now, at his trial, he quoted so freely from the Scriptures that council members were amazed. “How is such a thing possible?” they asked themselves. “How can this man remember so many texts?”

Apparently they had forgotten the wonderful promise Jesus had made so many years before: “Ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for My sake. . . . Take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.”²

(To be continued.)

1. The secretary at both Huss's and Jerome's trials.
2. Mark 13:9, 11.



the Robbers' Den

PART 1

Pasha took the money and beckoned to his older sister. As the two stepped out onto the hardened clay street, Shura giggled. "Father and Batushka⁴ are so funny when they play cards and drink vodka. I'm glad I finished my chores early, so I can watch."

Pasha jingled the coins in his hand. "They haven't sent us after liquor in a long time."

Shura shrugged. "The harvest wasn't as big last fall. Maybe Father has less pocket change."

Pasha hushed as they passed the village Orthodox Church.⁵ Its clean, whitewashed walls, neat yard, and high roof made it the most attractive building in Sosnovka⁶—at least to Pasha. Inside, the paintings and images gave it a lonesome, holy atmosphere, like the feeling he got from looking up at the stars. Just yesterday, Pasha had gone with his family to Liturgy.⁷ The priest had marched solemnly in, read the Scriptures and delivered a sermon, and then recited creeds, canons, and prayers. Last, he administered the bread and wine. The sober dignity of the ritual always made Pasha feel very religious, even though he wasn't sure he quite understood it all.

And now Batushka had stopped by

"Pasha,¹ come here, son." Father looked up from his card game and beckoned to the youngster watching from the corner. "I want you and your sister to go down to the street market and fetch some vodka for the priest."

The priest winked from behind his cards. "For the priest, you say? And what of his parishioner?" Viktor Tichomirov² chuckled. "I trust my father³ to share his blessings." He took several coins from his pocket and handed them to Pasha. "Run along, now—and make sure you come right back."

by Charity Fremont

Happy Home

for one of his frequent visits. Pasha's chest swelled to think of it. His father was friends with all the important men, not only in Sosnovka, but in the entire district. Everyone looked up to Father, and everyone agreed he had a fine wife and two of the best-behaved children for miles around. What more could a family want?

Jolly evening

"Ah, bless you, child." The priest flashed a yellow grin as he poured a shot of vodka. "It is no sin to drink with moderation. The Lord loves for us to be joyful. Did not Jesus Himself at the wedding in Cana change water into wine?"⁸

Father nodded and took a swig. "How about a round or two of Dulatchki?" He winked at Pasha and Shura, standing close by. If he won—and he nearly always did—he would earn the privilege of throwing the pack of cards at the loser's nose. Shura giggled and clapped.

After several rounds, Shura whispered in Pasha's ear,

"Look at Batushka's nose!"

Pasha clapped his hand to his mouth and suppressed a laugh. The priest's nose looked like a radish!

The priest sniggered as he picked up the cards. "He that endures to the end will be saved. My chance will come, and you'd better look out—for with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

Just then, Mother called for bedtime. As Pasha lay awake, listening to the hilarious laughter floating in from the other room, he thought about the priest's last words. Hadn't he said something like that in his sermon yesterday? And now he had turned it into a joke. Religion must be something that stayed in the church, with the ceremonies and icons that gave that hollow, pious feeling. Something about the Liturgy, the confessions, the holy days, and other religious rigmaroles must help a person be good and moral.

No doubt when Pasha grew up, he would be just like Father and Batushka.

Secret meetings

A year passed, and another summer had yielded another poor harvest. Pasha, now eight years old, worried as he saw his father meeting with the other farmers in tense, hushed gatherings. What could it mean?

When he asked his sister, she put a finger to her lips and lowered her voice. “I think I know. I heard Mother talking to the neighbor. The men are talking of selling out and moving to Siberia.”

Pasha gulped. “Siberia is far away, isn’t it?”

“I think it’s a long, long way from here. You have to take the train for days or maybe weeks. They say it’s wild and lonely there, too.” She looked at her brother with wide, scared eyes. “I don’t want to go, but I think we might have to.”

That evening at supper, Father ate in silence, his head bent over his plate of bread and potatoes. At last he looked up and cleared his throat. “I must leave for Siberia on the next train.”

Mother nodded, her face sad and droopy. “I was afraid of that. When will you return?”

“The men and I will return once we have found open land, suitable to settle.” Father poured himself a cup of tea. “Not everyone is going. Just a few of us with experience will go and scout the territory.”

Brave new plan

Snow had already started to fall by the time Father returned. “We’ve found land in the government of Tomsk,” he reported to the family. “It’s wild and free, with room to spread out. We can build up a prosperous farm, and if there’s a drought, we can earn wages logging the endless forests. We’ll have to start all over, but it’s better than losing everything here.”

“And is the journey long?” Mother’s voice trembled a little.

“Several weeks on the train, I’m afraid. The Trans-Siberian Railway is still under construction, you know. We’ll leave in early spring, to give ourselves plenty of time to settle in and plant our crops as soon as the ground can be worked.”

Mother sighed. “We’ll do what we must, Viktor. May the Almighty guard and keep us.”

(To be continued.)

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1. A Russian form of the name Paul.
 2. This name means “quiet peace.”
 3. A term commonly applied to those in the priesthood.
 4. The name the children gave to the priest. It means “daddy.”
 5. A denomination similar to the Catholic Church.
 6. A poor village in the western Russian empire, possibly in an area that is now part of Belarus.
 7. A religious service similar to the Catholic Mass.
 8. Wine in the Bible often means grape juice, as in this case; but many people do not understand this.

**in
touch**

Dear Young Disciples,

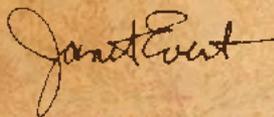
When Tony was about two years old, he had a game he especially liked to play with his daddy and me. Our little boy would climb up onto a table or countertop, and then jump into our outstretched arms. He had total confidence that we would always catch him. In fact, after a while he didn't even bother to hold out his hands. He just fell forward—and we always caught him.

At that time, we were missionaries at Songa Mission Station in the Congo (Zaire). At one point, because the government was so unstable, Tony and I were flown to a safer area while Will stayed behind to take care of the mission. Our bedroom in our place of refuge had a concrete floor and a funny, high bed. As I was unpacking our suitcase, Tony climbed up onto the bed. Because I was bent over the suitcase, I didn't see Tony jump towards me—but I did hear the sickening *crack* of his head as it connected with the concrete.

The next 36 hours were a nightmare as I tried to cope with a small child with post-concussion syndrome—and no medical help. We're very grateful that he suffered no permanent damage.

Today, when I think of absolute surrender, I remember how our little boy used to jump into our arms with such confidence. Of course, earthly parents aren't all-knowing and all-powerful, but my heavenly Father is different. When I fall into His arms in absolute surrender, He'll never let me down!

Your friend,



Today, when I think of absolute surrender, I remember how our little boy used to jump into our arms with such confidence.

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God is ready to
assume **full responsibility**
for the life
wholly yielded
to Him.



—Andrew Murray