Sermon Notes for September 22, 2013

Resign As Master of the Board


Introduction

The Babylonian Empire 614-539 B.C.

- Extended from the Persian Gulf to Egypt
- Babylon was the largest city in the ancient world.
- A center for literature, medicine, astronomy and worship.
- With magnificent buildings and gardens.

Then one day it all changed.

Nebuchadnezzar needed to resign as Master of the Board.

I. The Illusion of Control.

We think we are in control, but we are not in control.

We come out of the womb thinking the world revolves around me.

Property Laws of a Toddler

1. If I like it, it’s mine.
2. If it’s in my hand, it’s mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it’s mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it’s mine.
5. If it’s mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I’m doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks just like mine, it’s mine.
8. If I saw it first, it’s mine.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
10. If it’s broken, it’s yours.

Sometimes we think we are in control, but our life is in God’s hands.

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” Proverbs 16:9

II. The Call to Surrender Romans 12:1-2

God calls us to surrender our heart to him and acknowledge Jesus as the Lord of our life.

We must do that willingly. No one else can make that decision for you.
Paul urges us to “offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.” Romans 12:1

It is to be a decisive one-time commitment to Christ, but that commitment needs to be maintained and renewed through the choices we make every day.

“The only trouble with a living sacrifice is it keeps crawling off of the altar.” Howard Hendricks

Have you surrendered your life to Christ?

Is this a commitment you would like to renew today?

III. The Freedom of Surrender

When we surrender our heart to the Lord, it opens up all of God’s blessings.

“Then we will be able to test and approve what God’s will is!”

“His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2

We see that in other places in Scripture.

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make you righteousness shine like the dawn.” Psalm 37:4-6

Even Jesus endured the suffering of the cross “because of the joy that was set before him.” Hebrews 12:2

“If I really am Master of the Board, my hopes die when I do. But if there is another Master, a better Master, then there is a better hope.” John Ortberg

What we find when we surrender our life to Christ is that there is a better way to live.

The Things We Leave Behind by Michael Card

It is the confidence that God is for me that changes everything.

“What you intended for harm, God intended for good, to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Joseph to his brothers in Genesis 50:20

“And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

“If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

Conclusion

We need to resign as Master of the Board.

Giving is an act of confidence that the Lord is in control.

In return, we find greater freedom, greater peace and greater joy.