

How Much He Must Suffer (Yield as Pliable Clay to the Potter, and Come Forth a Vessel Unto honor.)

by Hans R. Waldvogel

The sermon emphasizes the necessity of suffering and surrender in becoming a vessel of honor for God's purpose.

Scripture: Luke 14:26, John 15:16, Acts 9:15-16, Acts 20:24

Topics: "Discipleship", "Suffering For Christ"

Description

Hans R. Waldvogel emphasizes the necessity of suffering in the Christian journey, illustrating that true discipleship requires yielding oneself as pliable clay to the Potter. He challenges the notion that believers should seek God solely for personal gain, asserting that Jesus has chosen us to be vessels of honor, which involves a willingness to endure hardships for His name's sake. Waldvogel calls for a radical surrender of our lives, urging that we must 'hate our own life' to truly follow Christ and fulfill our purpose. He highlights that the process of sanctification is not in our control but requires complete submission to God's will. Ultimately, the sermon encourages believers to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus, recognizing that He desires us to be transformed for His glory.

Transcript

Selected Verses:

Acts 9:15-16. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

John 15:16. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Luke 14:26. If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Acts 20:24. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Opening:

[Hymn fragment]

"The Lord said unto him, 'Go thy way, for he is a chosen vessel unto Me to bear My name. For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.'" I'm sure we were all greatly moved by sister Riccio's word this morning, when she kept repeating, "O Jesus, we need You. Jesus, we need You. O Jesus, give us a revival. Jesus, how we need You!" We are in school, and we certainly are in school.

But I would like to turn that around. I think that we'll find a shortcut to a revival when we turn that around and find out that Jesus needs us. Jesus needs me, and until I see that it isn't so much my needing Him as He needing me--or my wanting Him but He wanting me. He purchased me. He says, "You've not chosen Me; I have chosen you." But you know, the reason we choose Him and the reason we want Him is because we want to get something out of Him. You'll find that the great bulk of Christians everywhere in all churches are situated that way. They want God for what they can get out of Him: salvation, forgiveness of sins, healing, oh, and all kinds of blessings. And that constitutes our whole experience, our whole Christianity.

But that doesn't satisfy Him. He purchased us that we might be "vessels unto honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use." And the reason we don't listen to that "I've chosen you" is because He says, "I'll show him how much he must suffer." That's where we back down. But He says, "You cannot be My disciple--you can't follow Me--as long as you love your own life."

Now, that's simple gospel, and that's sound doctrine, and nobody likes it! Nobody likes it. Oh, how we love our lives! How we love them! And as long as we have what we want, and God blesses our lives, and God blesses us with health, and gives us enough to eat, and gives us clothes, and gives us a comfortable life of following Him, why, He's okay. I tell you, Jesus is okay--He's alright, He's nice, He's wonderful. And we sing "He's wonderful." But let Him cut a little bit deep, let Him begin to cleanse us and purify us and demand of us to give up, to repent, to quit ourselves. Oh, how we hang onto "our own lives also."

...

Selected Quotes:

Oh, beloved, we talk about other churches; let's talk about them lovingly. Maybe in the sight of God, they're doing far better than we. There's just one standard--just one standard: it's Jesus.

...

How is this Potter ever going to get a "vessel unto honor" so that the "principalities and powers in the heavenly places" will be astonished at the riches of the wisdom and the goodness and mercy of God? That's what He's chosen us for!

And I'm so happy this morning that I don't have to "choose Him," and I don't have to tell Him how to sanctify me and how to finish me. But one thing I must do: surrender, submit absolutely, "hate my own life

also." He wants my life!

...

Oh, Paul was given to Jesus. Jesus Christ, have You chosen me too? Do You want me too, Jesus? Do You want me, Lord? Oh, do You really want me? Then bake out of me that self love! Jesus, make me love You; make me want You--never mind what anybody else does. Oh, give me eyes anointed with eyesalve to see the King. Oh, give unto me "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."

...

They said, "Well, God can't." But Caleb and Joshua, they had a different spirit with them. That's what made the difference. Beloved, you and I need to have a different spirit; we need to have a Spirit who is Lord and Master--who controls us absolutely.

...

I wish God could rub it under our second chin this morning that we're not nearly as spiritual as we think we are and as we ought to be. Oh, that God might put into every one of our hearts a cry, "Oh, that I might know Him, and the power of His resurrection!" That's what we're here for. That's what Jesus chose us for.

...

Illustrations:

The work of a potter. "Now, that vase was not only put in the fire, but it was masoned into an oven. They had no door to it. It was put in the oven, and then bricks were cemented right around it. And there, that poor vase was lost in the fire--couldn't think of getting out--had to stay in that furnace." (from 5:14)

Comments on seminaries. (from 11:15)

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/hans-r-waldvogel/how-much-he-must-suffer-yield-as-pliable-clay-to-the-potter-and-come-forth-a-ves/>

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