**This Thing We Call Worship—Week 4 (Submission)**

**2/26/17**

Do you remember the first time that you got stuck with a needle as a kid? What a crazy experience! It’s like, “Hey, we’re going to stick this sharp little thing into your body and blood is going to come out. Is that ok with you?” Uhhhhhh…NO! Your first reaction is probably more like this…SAY WHAT?! **[first baby picture]** And then…UH OH! [**second baby picture**] And finally you’re just crying your eyes out! **[last baby picture]**

Nevertheless, your parents are trying to calm you down, the doctor is preparing the needle, and you’re just sitting there crying and protesting, “Please noooo!!!” But…the reality is that you need the vaccinations. These shots help prevent a number of terrible diseases. They really are important. However, as a kid, it’s nearly impossible to understand or comprehend that. At some point, a child will simply need to submit to their parents’ best interest. The responsibility of a parent is to do what’s best for their children.

Or…it’s kind of like that scene in Finding Nemo ☺ One of the little fish says, “LOOK AT ME…I’M GONNA GO TOUCH THE BUTT!” Then eventually, Nemo swims out there and despite his father’s objections, he does and then they all say, “Woahhhh…he touched the butt.”

**How many of you have seen the remake of “The Karate Kid”? Will Smith’s son is in it and Justin Bieber did that “Never Say Never” song. Jackie Chan’s character makes Dre (Will Smith’s son) do all of these seemingly pointless tasks and Dre resists them all the time. He’s always complaining and asking why he has to do these exercises. Then, it clicked…**

**(Leaders Note: Show “Karate Kid” video clip)**

It’s hard to submit! Yet, I believe that submission to God is the right attitude and behavior to truly worship God. We don’t have to look any further than Jesus himself when it comes to submitting to the will of God in our life.

**THP: A life of submission is the life of a Christian.**

In fact, there was a time that Jesus did not want to submit. Let’s look at a challenging time in Jesus’ life…Luke 22:42-44: *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.*

The word submission…in the original Greek…is the word “*eulabeia”* and that literally means “a taking hold of what God calls good.” The word only appears twice in the New Testament, both in the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 5:7 –“*During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.*

Hebrews 12:28 ***–****“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe*

Jesus’ submission to the Father and his purpose here on earth was Jesus’ act of worship. Jesus exemplified true sacrifice before the cross and on the cross. He didn’t need anything else in life other than pleasing His Father.

**Here’s a quote from Pastor Tim Keller: “If you need something in addition to God to make you happy, that is your true God.”**

I have a very important question for you…and one that you may need to do some serious thinking about in your heart and mind: do YOU need anything in addition to God to make you happy? If so, what is it? Why do you need it so badly?

I know these are difficult questions to answer because they might make us feel guilty or it might be hard for you to admit to some weakness that you have. You don’t have to feel that way because Jesus knows exactly what you are going through. The world looks at Christian people sometimes and thinks, “What are they doing? Why do they care about worshiping God?” In fact, it may even seem foolish to people. IT WAS NO DIFFERENT WITH JESUS!

2 Corinthians 12:9 – *“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”*

My question for you today is: are you living a life of worship? Where are you weak right now? Where do you need God’s help? What area of your life do you need to submit?

Maybe a bigger question is: do you need to submit your whole life to God? Maybe today is finally the day where you say, “Ok God…I’m all in! I submit my whole life to you! I still have questions and I might not fully know what it means to be a Christian…but I want to! I want to make that commitment today!”

**I want every head bowed and every eye closed. I’m going to close us in prayer, but if you would like to make the decision to become a Christian today and commit to follow Jesus for the first time, I want you to repeat this prayer silently to yourself. *Dear Jesus, thank you for saving me. I know that I have done things that are wrong in my life. I can’t live this life on my own. I need You. Please forgive me of my sins. I commit to follow You for the rest of my life. I submit to you and give You complete control of my life. Help me to obey you! Thank you for loving me no matter what. I place my faith and trust in You and You alone. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.***

If you just said that prayer for the first time, this is your first step as a new follower of Christ. That is awesome! It is the best decision that you will ever make! We want to help you take your next steps! I want you to do three things for me if you made that decision…

-Tell someone (family, friends, leaders)

-Get a Bible (if you need one, let your leader know and we can get you one!)

-Get baptized during the next baptism service!

If you ever need someone to talk to, all of the leaders are available to listen to you and help you

in any way that we can. Love you guys! Let’s go to our group discussions!