

THE DECISION TO RENOUNCE

“Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”(Matthew 19:21 NLT)

INTRODUCTION: *In this fifth week of our series, we will explore the importance of making the decision to quit, inspired by the story of the rich young ruler. Sometimes, we are so attached to our possessions, ambitions, or even habits that they prevent us from experiencing the true freedom that Christ offers us. The story of the rich young ruler teaches us that giving up what binds us is essential to following Jesus and living a full life in Him.*

1. RECOGNIZE WHAT BINDS US

- **Identify if we have idols:** It can be money, success, relationships or anything that takes the place that belongs to God in our heart.
- **Accept the truth:** Recognize that these things, although they may seem important, prevent us from having a complete relationship with God. (Matt. 6:33)
- **Evaluate our hearts:** Examine our priorities and ask ourselves if we are willing to put God first.

2. THE CALL TO RESIGN

- **Radical Obedience:** Just as Jesus told the rich young ruler, sometimes we must make radical decisions to truly follow Him. “I don't need to understand everything completely to obey immediately.”
- **Trust in God:** Believing that God has a better plan for us than what we can see or understand.

- **Letting go of control:** Letting go means fully trusting God and allowing Him to take control of our lives.

3. THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

- **Spiritual liberation:** *And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”(John 8:32 NLT)*

By renouncing what binds us, we find a spiritual freedom that allows us to draw closer to God.

- **Heavenly Wealth:** Jesus promises that by giving up earthly things, we gain treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-20)
- **Fullness of life:** True fulfillment and satisfaction are found when we follow Jesus without reservation. (Col. 2:9)

4. OTHER BENEFITS OF RENOUNCING

- **Inner Peace:** (Philippians 4:6-7 NLT) When we give up our worries and trust in God, we receive a peace that passes all understanding. This peace guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

- **Purpose and direction:**

By giving up our own plans and trusting in God's, we align ourselves with His purpose for our lives. This leads us to a life full of meaning and direction, knowing that He has good plans for us. *For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans*

for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT)

CONCLUSION: *Giving up what binds us is not easy, but it is a crucial step to following Jesus fully. Like the rich young ruler, we are called to evaluate our lives and decide if we are willing to give up everything for Christ. The freedom, peace and purpose we find in doing so is unmatched.*

By making the decision to give up, we experience the abundant life that Jesus promises and come closer to true freedom in Him. May God give us the courage to let go and follow Him with all our hearts.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- What things or people in my life occupy the place that should be for God alone?
- Am I willing to trust God enough to give up what He asks of me?

- How could my life change if I decide to let go of what binds me?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

- **Identify and confess:** Take time to identify what binds you and confess it to God, asking Him to give you the strength to renounce it.
- **Gradually detach yourself:** Begin to let go of what binds you, step by step. If it is something material, consider donating or selling it and using those resources for good.
- **Seek support:** Share your decision to renounce with someone you trust for support and prayer.

SALVATION PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so that you may be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.*