



Committed to God and Myself

Date: October 6, 2024

Four Part Series October 2024

1. **Committed to God and Myself (Matthew 22:37-40)**
2. Committed to Avoiding “The Trap” (Name the one thing that can trap you)
3. Committed to Protecting My Relationships (What must you do to save your relationships?)
4. Committed to Being Fruitful (You must be clear what hinders and brings fruitfulness)

Key Word: Gifted

Big Question: Are you committed to embracing the confidence God has in you?

Side Question: Do you really believe in yourself?

I. How We Are Tempted to See Ourselves

A. We are tempted to not see much value in ourselves

- We are tempted to never trust ourselves. We often feel as if we have little value outside of our Christian mission.
- We are portrayed as these unstable, quickly discouraged people, that need several visits to the spiritual gas station (church) a week to survive.
- We can't make a good decision without our spiritual leaders guiding us all our lives. We will never really develop independence and can never change battle stations or leave our spiritual home churches.

B. We are taught to support “you are nothing without me” concept (without balance)

- **St. John 15:4-5** improperly applies says you are nothing without Christ (cp John 3:16)
- **God trusted Adam and Eve**, Jesus trusted the disciples, and he chose to empower you (Acts 1:8) to go and do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12).
- You are a trusted treasure who He has deposited with a great treasure



II. How God Described Us (We Are Treasure Holders)

2 Corinthians 4:7–12 (NIV):

7 **But we have this treasure in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus 'sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. 12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

III. How God Empowered Us to Overcome

1. We have been **trusted** with a treasure even when life is tough (v7)
2. We are hard **pressed** on every side but not crushed (v8)
3. We are **perplexed**, but not in despair
4. We are **persecuted**, but not abandoned
5. We are **struck down**, but not destroyed
6. We **carry** in our body the death of Jesus to model Jesus
7. We often **face** things that are **threatening and death** like (11-12)

IV. How I Have Been Able to Overcome My Temptations

My Temptations

1. Not to trust myself
2. To live in the land of "If only."¹ (How often do you live there?)
3. To admire people that I believe have it all together
4. To misjudge the facts about my life circumstances

Closing:

V. How I Manage My Temptation (David Models How in I Samuel 17)

1. I **ignore** unhelpful and demeaning comments (David ignored his brothers)
2. I **ask** questions that keep me informed (David asked about Goliath)
3. I **don't allow** other people to dress me in their armor (David told Saul "No thank you")
4. I **find strength** in my past victories. (David remembered the lion and the bear)

Next Sermon: Committed to Avoiding the Trap

¹ Source: If only, Finding Freedom From Regret by Robert Leahy, PHD