

Travel Light – **“Letting Go of Control”**

1Peter 5:7 “Casting all your cares on Him; because He care for you.”

We all have at least one area of our life that we are struggling with letting go of. As we face a new year and end this time of prayer and fasting, this is the opportune time to deal with those issues in our life that hold us back and cause us to travel with excess baggage.

If you are tempted to reach over and raise the hand of the person sitting next to you that they need to let go of control; you are probably the one who really need to let go of control.

Some are thinking: this is the perfect message for my:

- Spouse --mother in law – friend –parents!
- You may think: “I’m not controlling, I’m just aggressively helping them.
- Some of you make coffee nervous! You wear others out.
- Some of you are concerned with what others think about you and social media is your avenue to show others what you want them to see – filtered and edited.

**The more you try to be in control - the more you fear losing control -
the more you fear losing control - the more you want to be in control**

Key Thought: You don’t always have the power to **control**,
But you always have the power to **surrender!**

You don’t always have the power:

- **To get your kids, finances, personal life, marriage, future in order.**
- You don’t have the power to control, but you do have the power to surrender!

We all have hopes and dreams, but life comes to us and does stuff to us leaving us disturbed and confused:

- Your dream job you just landed is having a layoff and you’re newly hired and may be the first to go.
- You were finished at two kids, you got a bonus round, and now the third is expected.
- You planned for kids and now you get news you can’t have any.
- It could be your marriage and family aren’t what you want them to be.
- There may be an empty chair at your table where a loved sat last year but are no longer there.

- It could be a health issue and you're disturbed and confused; this is not the way it was supposed to happen to me!

None of us know the end of the story of our lives.

We don't always have the choice to **control**, but we do have the power to **surrender**.

We are faced with making a choice between our dreams and God's plans and destiny for our lives.

We are called to make a choice in our plans or God's calling upon our lives to bring the most glory to Him.

There is no such thing as partial surrender to Jesus; it's either all or nothing:

- No such thing as 87.5% surrendered.
- I trusted Him to save my soul, but I still like to fool around with sinful things.
- I can't give Him that part of my life.
- Lord, I trust you with my past, but not with my money.
- I trust Him to give me peace, but not with my kids; these are my kids.

What is our desire to control rooted in?

Our desire to control is rooted in our lack of **Trust** or **Faith** in God.

- The more we find ourselves trying to control, the more we overestimate our ability to control, the more we underestimate the power & goodness of God.
- All of culture tells us, "You have to make it happen, it's up to you!"
- **"If it's going to be, it's up to me!" "I've got to be strong."**

But Jesus says something that is opposite:

Matt. 10:39 "If you **cling to your life, you will lose it**; but if you **give up your life for Me, you will find it.**"

To fully follow Jesus is to surrender control.

As Mary said to the angel when he pronounced she, as a virgin, would become pregnant with the Savior – her response was **"Let it be unto me as you have spoken."**

Facts about surrendering control:

- Surrendering control is not just a one-time decision. Not just back in 1960?
- It is a daily choice.

**Every time we choose to surrender something;
We will see evidence of the faithfulness of God!**

III: Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus:

- She's nine months pregnant riding on a donkey, looking for a place to birth this child.
- Ends up in a stable, no real room, with animals all around.
- Trust Him.
- Angels announce His birth, shepherds show up to worship – “O yeah, He is the Son of the Most High God – that's what this is all about.”
- Then King Herold gets word out to kill this and all other babies that are a threat to him.
- So they have to flee. But wise men show up with gifts.
- How do you make ends meet when you're on the run; **well gold, frankincense, myrrh will help you get what you need.**

**NONE OF THIS IS IDEAL –
BUT GOD SHOWS UP AND PROVES HIS FAITHFULNESS**

As He grows older, Jesus knows what is going to happen to Him:

- He's in a garden agonizing over what is going to happen to Him.
- So much agony that His capillaries burst and HE sweats blood.
- He cries out to the Father that if its possible, to remove this cup from Him – but He cries out and uses the same word His mother used:
“Let it be Your will Father and not Mine.”
- He goes to the cross and Mary looks at Him while on the cross:
 - She is a mother seeing her son suffering, being mocked.
 - Jesus could have reacted and taken control, but HE surrendered and said to His Father: “Into Your hands I surrender My spirit.”

What is it in your life that you are trying to control?

You need to let it go so you can receive the Lords best for you in 2019 and beyond.

No one can force you to surrender that to the Lord, this is an opportunity today.

Today, in the bucket on the right of each aisle is a small piece of paper – please take a piece and pass the bucket to your neighbor to your left.

On this paper, write out a concern on your heart:

- Physical need you or a family member has.
- A relationship
- A financial need
- A marital need
- You child[ren]

- A fear, a hurt, and an addiction you can't seem to overcome.
- A guilt you are struggling to overcome.

I want to invite you to give the Lord that concern/burden by bringing it up to the basket on the altar.

Give your concern/burden to the Lord this morning and give up trying to control it and surrender not only that thing – but also yourself to the Lord and let Him have you and to have control of what is hindering you.

Final thought:

**God can do much more through your surrender
Than you will ever be able to do through your control**

**That which is in your heart
Is always better in His hand**