

# Rooted - March 14th - Making Yourself Homesick - Troy Knight

## TALK IT OVER

### Key Scriptures:

Colossians 2:11-23

Matthew 6:19 - 21

1 Timothy 6:9 - 10

### Start reading

#### Colossians 3:1 - 4

**1** Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. **2** Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. **3** For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

#### Matthew 6:19 - 21

**19** "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. **21** Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

#### 1 Timothy 6:9 - 10

**9** But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

### Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever watched a commercial on TV and then gone to the store/restaurant, bought it, and eaten it? What's your food weakness?

### Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- **Read Colossians 3:1-2.** What does Paul mean by the phrase, "since you've been raised to new life with Christ?" Do you think of yourself as 'raised to new life'?
- According to verse 2, what effect should this resurrection life have on our thought life? If 1 is thinking about earthly matters and 10 is thinking about heavenly ones, what number would you give yourself this week? What can you do to move the number higher?
- **Read Matthew 6:19-21.** What did Jesus mean when he said there is a direct connection between our money and our heart? Do these verses forbid saving money? What is the point Jesus is making?
- If someone were to look at your spending habits over the last year, using the same scale from question 3, what number would they give you?
- **Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10.** What ruin, destruction, and sorrows is Paul talking about in these verses? Have you ever seen this happen in your life or the life of someone you know?
- **Read Colossians 3:3-4.** Pastor Troy said a 2nd way we become more heavenly minded is to surrender our will to God. Why do so many of us find it so difficult to die to this life and surrender completely to God? Have you ever surrendered your will completely to God? If not, what's holding you back?

### Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Is totally surrendering our will to God a one-time thing or is it something we may have to do more than once? Do you sometimes think God is in control when you've really taken over, even with good motives? Why? What are some safeguards that you can have in place to keep from taking over?
- Do you desire heavenly treasure, Jesus, more than anything on earth? Or is your greatest desire for someone or something, some treasure this world has to offer? Is He the strength of your heart? Or do you trust in your own or someone else's strength to find peace on earth? What tools can you use to move toward being more heavenly minded?

### Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Commit this week to surrendering your will completely to Jesus. If there are things that are holding you back, pray God will help you surrender these things.

### Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- God, help us to be homesick for you and for heaven. We want to surrender to you. Show us how we can do this fully with our lives. - Amen

### Start digging. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

## Question: "What does it mean to surrender to God?"

**Answer:** This world is a battleground. Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:17-19), the world God created has been in conflict with Him (Romans 8:20-22). Satan is called the "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4), and due to Adam's sin, we are born on his team (Romans 5:12). John Bunyan pictured this conflict in his allegory *The Holy War*. Prince Emmanuel besieges the city of Mansoul to wrest it from the power of Diabolus. Unfortunately, the citizens of Mansoul are blindly committed to Diabolus and fight against Emmanuel, to their own detriment.

When we reach the age when we can make moral choices, we must choose whether to follow our own sinful inclinations or to seek God (see Joshua 24:15). God promises that when we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13). When we find Him, we have a choice to make: do we continue following our own inclinations, or do we surrender to His will?

*Surrender* is a battle term. It implies giving up all rights to the conqueror. When an opposing army surrenders, they lay down their arms, and the winners take control from then on. Surrendering to God works the same way. God has a plan for our lives, and surrendering to Him means we set aside our own plans and eagerly seek His. The good news is that God's plan for us is always in our best interest (Jeremiah 29:11), unlike our own plans that often lead to destruction (Proverbs 14:12). Our Lord is a wise and beneficent victor; He conquers us to bless us.

There are different levels of surrender, all of which affect our relationship with God. Initial surrender to the drawing of the Holy Spirit leads to salvation (John 6:44; Acts 2:21). When we let go of our own attempts to earn God's favor and rely upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, we become a child of God (John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 5:21). But there are times of greater surrender during a Christian's life that bring deeper intimacy with God and greater power in service. The more areas of our lives we surrender to Him, the more room there is for the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we exhibit traits of His character (Galatians 5:22). The more we surrender to God, the more our old self-worshiping nature is replaced with one that resembles Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Romans 6:13 says that God demands that we surrender the totality of our selves; He wants the whole, not a part: "Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness." Jesus said that His followers must deny themselves (Mark 8:34)—another call to surrender.

The goal of the Christian life can be summed up by Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Such a life of surrender is pleasing to God, results in the greatest human fulfillment, and will reap ultimate rewards in heaven (Luke 6:22-23).