



GLC  UPGRADES

# THE LEADERSHIP H.E.A.R.T. OF JESUS

SESSION 2: THE ENDURING HEART

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**THE LEADERSHIP H.E.A.R.T. OF JESUS: SESSION 2**  
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## The Leadership H.E.A.R.T. of Jesus

HOPEFUL HEART  
ENDURING HEART  
AFFECTIONATE HEART  
RESTED HEART  
TRUSTING HEART

### ENDURING HEART

**Aptitude of Endurance**  
**Attitude of Endurance**  
**Action of Endurance**

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#### **Aptitude of Endurance: *Perseverance***

Endurance means:

1. Repeating the practice of perseverance;
2. Remaining under a heavy load;
3. Resisting the pressure to let go; and
4. Responding with steadfastness in the face of unpleasant circumstances.

*“The pairs of snails reached Noah’s ark by perseverance.”*

#### **Biblical Basis of Perseverance**

*Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

JAMES 1:4

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## Attitude of Endurance: *Patience*

The Greek word for “endurance” or “patience” is *makrothumia*. It occurs 25 times in the New Testament – particularly, in the letters of Paul, Peter, and James. In each of these instances, *makrothumia* occurs in the contexts of suffering, steadfastness, and spiritual strength.

*Makrothumia* comes from the mix of two words, makros (i.e., “distant, long”) & thumos (i.e., “outbursts of anger, rage, wrath, fierce temper, passion”). Thus, “patience” means “long-suffering.” To be patient is to be willing to suffer long and to be slow in resorting to resentfulness.

### Patience in Suffering

*“The highest joy to the Christian almost always comes through suffering. No flower can bloom in paradise, which is not transplanted from Gethsemane.”*

IAN MACLAREN

## Action of Endurance: *Welcome Trials*

We must be ready for trials and must not resist suffering. We can welcome them as friends, thanking God and trusting Him for them.

*“A Christian is like a tea bag – not much good until it has gone through hot water.”*

### Prayer for Welcoming Trials

*“Father, **thank** you that this trial is for my good. It is meant to mature me as a leader. I welcome this trial as a friend and as your means of polishing me. I **trust** you that you know what you’re doing. I entrust this area of my life to you. I entrust to you everything and everyone related to this trial. May I mature to be the leader you desire me to be. Amen.”*

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## Action of Endurance: *Never Give Up*

*When we fall, let's try again.*

*"In trying times, never stop trying."*

*When we fail, let's get up.*

*"The greatest accomplishment is not in never failing,  
but in rising again after you fall."*

VINCE LOMBARDI

## When Tempted to Give Up, Remember

1. Jonas Salk failed 200 times before he found the vaccine for polio;
2. The Coca Cola Company sold only 400 Coke bottles in its 1st year of business;
3. Dr. Seuss's 1st book was rejected by 23 publishers; and
4. Henry Ford went bankrupt twice before hitting it big in the automotive industry.

## Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
& when you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit –  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As everyone of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When we might have won, had we stuck it out.  
Don't give up, though the pace may be slow –  
You may succeed with another blow.

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION #1**

1. As a CCF discipler/leader, you are called to persevere until the end. What usually makes persevering hard for you?
2. A helpful attitude in perseverance is to welcome trials & suffering. What can help you develop this attitude?
3. Share an instance in your life when you were at the verge of giving up. What made you not quit?

## ***Jesus' First Example of ENDURANCE***

### **JESUS' 3 PASSION PREDICTIONS**

(i.e., His perseverance in suffering)

**Mark 8:31-34; 9:31-35; 10:32-45**

## **1st Passion Prediction of Jesus**

*He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.*

MARK 8:31

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## 1st Lesson on Endurance

*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

MARK 8:34

## Paired Lesson on Endurance

In light of the 1st passion prediction, Jesus teaches a paired lesson on endurance:

- **Self-Denial** (i.e., saying NO to our self)
  - turning away from self-interest
- **Cross-Bearing** (i.e., saying YES to our Savior)
  - taking up our own cross

## Meaning of Cross-Bearing: *Submission*

1. **Surrender** (i.e., I give up control);
2. **Shame** (i.e., I accept insults);
3. **Service** (i.e., I put others first);
4. **Suffering** (i.e., I welcome hurts & pains); and
5. **Sacrifice** (i.e., I let go of my rights).

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## 2nd Passion Prediction of Jesus

*He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.”*

MARK 9:31

## 2nd Lesson on Endurance

*“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”*

MARK 9:35

## 2nd Endurance Lesson: **Service**

In light of the 2nd passion prediction, Jesus teaches the lesson of endurance in service:

- **Servant of All** (i.e., one who attends to the needs of others freely) – service, not status, is the way of greatness in God’s kingdom
- **Being Last of All** (i.e., deliberate voluntary choice) – this is the way to have the highest position (i.e., being first) among the “great” in God’s kingdom

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## Endurance Comes from a Servant's Heart

Jesus had a servant's heart. His servant's heart asked this question:  
*"What do you want me to do for you?"*

MARK 10:36

The context of Jesus' service is the selfishness of James and John:  
"Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

MARK 10:36

Selfishness reveals insensitivity. The brothers' insensitivity was seen in their unmindfulness of Jesus' emotion after he told them of his impending passion and death (Mk. 10:33-34).

Their selfish demand is for a place of prominence and a position of priority:  
*"Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory"*

MARK 10:37

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### **John Wesley's Motto**

*"Do all the good you can by all the means you can, by all the ways you can, in all the places you can, and at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."*

How? Ask the question,  
*"What do you want me to do for you?"*

### **Jesus' Example in Serving the Least & Last**

Jesus did not only serve the selfish & insensitive brothers, but he also served the insignificant blind beggar, Bartimaeus.

*"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.*

MARK 10:51-52

### **Endurance Attitudes to Serve the Least & the Last in Society**

- Let's not belittle the little.
- In God's eyes, there are no little people.
- They are all significant.
- Whatever insignificant act of service we can do for people is significant in the sight of God.

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## **Endurance Attitudes in Serving Others**

- “People are not interruptions in the ministry; they are our ministry.”
- “The public enemy #1 of compassion is busyness.”
- Busyness is when I seem to put a “Do Not Disturb” sign in my face and through my body language.

## **GROUP DISCUSSION # 2**

1. How can you develop a servant’s heart?
2. What can motivate you to still serve the selfish, insensitive, and insignificant?

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### 3rd Passion Prediction of Jesus

*Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him, “We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law.”*

MARK 10:32b-33a

*“They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”*

MARK 10:33b-34

*“Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”*

MARK 10:43-44

### 3rd Endurance Lesson: *Slave of All*

In light of the 3rd passion prediction, Jesus teaches the lesson of endurance as a slave of all:

**Slave of All** (i.e., one who forfeits his or her own rights to serve any and all)

### Endurance Comes from a Slave of All

*Jesus did not only have a servant’s heart, He also was a slave of all. “For even the Son of God did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

MARK 10:45b

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## Meaning of “Ransom”

### Ransom =

the picture of deliverance by purchase, whether a prisoner of war, a slave, or a forfeited life. It speaks of a liberation, which shows servitude or imprisonment from which man cannot free himself.

Jesus’ death as ransom was his greatest example of being slave of all.

## Endurance as a Slave of All

Since he modeled being a slave of all, Jesus instructed his disciples to also serve as a slave (Mk. 10:43-44).

### Slave =

someone who has no authority or privilege at all, and who is expected to serve his or her master with no recognition or commendation.

### Mindset of a Slave

“People won’t care about what you know until they know that you care.”

“Success is not measured according to the number of servants you have, but according to the number of people you serve.”

## GROUP DISCUSSION #3

1. How can you develop being a slave of all?
2. How can you be a slave of all to your small group members?

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## **Jesus' Second Example of ENDURANCE**

### **AGONY AT GETHSEMANE**

(i.e., His endurance at the garden)

**Mark 14:32-42**

#### **1. Jesus Shared His Suffering with Trusted Friends**

*They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.*

MARK 14:32-33

*"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. Stay here with me and keep watch."*

MARK 14:34

#### **Jesus Unloading His Burden**

- Jesus wanted to unburden himself before the Father in prayer (Mk. 14:32b);
- Jesus shared his burden with a few trusted men (Mk. 13:33a);
- Jesus expressed openly to his friends how he was deeply "distressed" (i.e., alarmed) & "troubled" (i.e., in extreme anguish; 14:33b); and
- Jesus told how he was overwhelmed with grief to the point of death (14:34a).

#### **2. Jesus Submitted Himself to the Father**

*Going a little further, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

MARK 14:35-36

### **Jesus' Submission in Suffering**

- Jesus came to the Father in prayer (Mk. 14:32, 35, 39);
- Jesus' emotions burst with intensity (Mk. 14:35a) & transparency (Mk. 14:35b, 36a); and
- Jesus ended his prayer with submission to the Father's will: "Yet not what I will, but what you will" (Mk. 14:36b).

### **3. Jesus Showed Steadfastness and Supplication**

*Then he returned to the disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for an hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

MARK 14:37-38

#### **Jesus' Steadfastness in Supplication**

- Jesus endured in prayer, while the 3 disciples slept thrice (Mk. 14:37a, 40, 41a);
- Jesus' taught the 3 disciples to "watch" (i.e., be alert to spiritual dangers) & to "pray" (i.e., to acknowledge dependence on God; 14:38a), so as not to yield to sin; and
- Jesus instructed the 3 disciples that they need to be watchful & prayerful because "the spirit is willing" (i.e., one's inner desire or best intent is eager) but "the flesh is weak" (i.e., one's humanness or inadequacy is easily overwhelmed in action; 14:38b).

### **GROUP DISCUSSION #4**

1. Who are your trusted friends that you can share your struggles with?
2. What is an area in your life, relationship, or ministry that you need to submit to God?
3. What is your prayer request that you must bring to God constantly?

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## ***Jesus' Third Example of ENDURANCE***

### **HUMILITY IN DEATH ON THE CROSS**

(i.e., His endurance until the end)

#### **Mark 15:22-39**

#### **Jesus' Humility at the Cross**

Jesus was a submissive servant and subservient sufferer at the cross.

- Jesus was silent & non-retaliatory, when he was verbally abused by passersby (“save yourself & come down from the cross” [Mk. 15:29-30]);
- Jesus remained quiet, when he was maliciously mocked by the religious authorities (“He save others; he cannot save himself. . . come down from the cross now” [Mk. 15:31b-32a]);
- Jesus offered no vengeful words, when he was insensitively insulted by the 2 robbers crucified with him (Mk. 15:32b); and
- Jesus kept his composure, when he was obtusely misunderstood by bystanders (“Listen, he is calling for Elijah” [Mk. 15:35b]); “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down” [Mk. 15:36b]).

### **GROUP DISCUSSION #5**

1. How does the humility of Jesus at the cross inspire you to carry your own cross?
2. Share an instance in your relationship or ministry life when God taught you to be humble.

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## Developing Endurance

### 1. Take Out All That Hinder

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.*

HEBREWS 12:1a

### 2. Run with Perseverance

*And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us*

HEBREWS 12:1b

### 3. Fix Our Eyes on Jesus

*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

HEBREWS 12:2

### 4. Consider the Example of Jesus

*Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

HEBREWS 12:3

# EXPERIENCE

**Assignment:**

1. Review the 3 examples of Endurance of Jesus for this coming week. Then answer this question: “How can I follow his example in my walk, work, & ministry?”
2. When you encounter a trial this week, how will you apply the 4 ways of developing endurance (based on Hebrews 12:1-3)?



