

October 1, 2017
ALL IN (4) **All in All: Burn the Ship**
Matthew 26:1-13
Rev. Dr. Charles Yoon

Because what happens for most of us is every week we get up Monday morning and we go to a place, sometimes called an office, and at that place we trade our life. On any given week, we trade 40, 50, 60 hours of our lives for something called a paycheck. We trade our life for a paycheck. So, for example, if you make \$1,000 a week and you give \$1,000 to God, you are not just giving \$1,000. You are giving a week of your life back to God. You are trading your life for a paycheck and it's a beautiful thing. Whatever we are doing, God has called us to that thing.

So whatever you are doing, I hope that you are not just trading your life for a paycheck. Whatever you are doing, you need to do it for the glory of God. When we give, we are giving our hearts and our lives. Somehow, in God's providence, He uses that. He uses that in our lives. We have the opportunity to go all in and do what Christ called us to do.

I don't know what God is demanding of you, but He gave everything. That means we better give ourselves back to Him. I want to challenge you to make a defining decision. I want to challenge you to make a daily decision. There are a few defining decisions that will forever change the trajectory of our lives. That doesn't need to scare us because God goes before us and He orders or guides our footsteps so we can live in holy anticipation. We don't have to worry about it if we're walking the path that God has laid out for us. But we still have to make those defining decisions.

There is a defining decision above all others. It's the decision to bow our knees and kneel at the foot of the cross and submit our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to acknowledge that He is who He says He is. That's a defining decision. Many of us have made that decision. I challenge you to make that decision today. Bow your knees and submit your life to God. Then get up and make a daily decision today, tomorrow and the next day. Our destiny is as much defined by daily decisions as it is by defining decisions. It is about living it out. Then take up the cross that you have knelt before and carry it. Jesus said, "*Take up your cross and follow me.*" In other words, 'I went all in for you, now you go all in for me.' And if we go all in for God, our lives will never be the same.

This weekend, we wrap up our 'All In' series. This is a tough one to end because I think all of us have been challenged. I don't know about you, but I want to continue to be challenged. Going all in with God is to push all our chips to the middle of the table and say, 'God, I belong to you.' What does that look like? For Noah, it was building an ark in the middle of the desert. For Abraham, it was putting his son Isaac on the altar and offering to God what was most precious to him. For Jonathan, it was climbing the cliff. But more than anything else, going all in looks like the sinless Son of God hanging on an old rugged cross offering his life as a sacrifice for our forgiveness and our freedom. It is not about what we can do for God. It is about what He has already done for us. It was done at the cross and with the resurrection that God accomplished his purposes and all we have to do is receive it. So when we begin to realize that He loves us, then we start loving other people the way He loves us. And our lives become an expression of who God is. Essentially, we begin to do what God has done for us. So going all in is a response to the God who has gone all in for us.

Today's text is the story of a woman pouring expensive perfume from an alabaster jar on Jesus' head. We don't know the exact value of this alabaster jar, but it was enough to shock the disciples. In fact, they called it a waste. This was the most valuable thing she owned. In fact, I think this alabaster jar of perfume probably represented her life savings. That might be significant for her. She wasn't just pouring perfume on Jesus. What was she doing? She was offering her life to Jesus.

Each of you is special. We don't believe that anybody walks in our doors by accident. You are a divine appointment. You are here for a reason. I believe you can meet God in an incredible way. So, I want to give everybody in this sanctuary and in this church an opportunity to be part of the significant gift to God. I believe, when you give a gift during the offering time, you aren't giving money. You are giving your life. Why?