

ILLUSTRATION //

OPTION 1 // SETS UP SERMON:

- Think of a time you really wanted affirmation about something - maybe new sports equipment, new clothes, a song you did good singing at, a grade you got, etc.
- Tie in the fact that everyone longs for affirmation and how we are actually designed to want affirmation; however, we live in a world where we are constantly fighting for approval from others, when only affirmation can come from God.

OPTION 2 // SETS UP SCRIPTURE:

- Think of a time when you got told off or put back in your place - maybe by your mom for not doing dishes, maybe fabricating a story and getting put back in your place, etc.
- Tie in the fact that even in the Bible, sometimes people had to get put back in their place and in right standing with Jesus! This is definitely one of those passages lol.

TENSION // Who are you devoted to and who are you submitted to because that is who you will receive affirmation from. Whose approval are you seeking? Is the approval of God enough for you? Who is in your number 1 seat?

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND + SET UP //

- **At this point in time, the church was only equipped with the Old Testament scriptures + prophecies, which do not explicitly declare in writing that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. This is simply because Jesus had not yet come to Earth.**
- **John is speaking to the Jews who knew and understood the Scriptures to a degree, yet they still did not accept Jesus as the true Messiah.**

SCRIPTURE // JOHN 5:41-44 (PG. 134)

“Your approval means nothing to me, because I know you don’t have God’s love within you. For I have come to you in my Father’s name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. No wonder you can’t believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don’t care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.”

MAIN POINT // OUR SOURCE OF AFFIRMATION IS JESUS

POINT 1 // AFFIRMATION REQUIRES DEVOTION

- A. When we are TRULY devoted to Jesus and primarily dependent on him, we are not motivated solely on the affirmation + praise of others.**
- There comes a moment in our faith journey when our one true goal is to please God.

- The difference between people and God is that people can grant approval, but only God can grant true affirmation.

B. Dependence on the praise of others is placing ourselves in a seat of honor that only God should sit.

- We honor God, by adhering to and believing His word over the words of man!
- When we place the opinion of others, whether good or bad, over what God says about us, we are inherently placing all authority in the hands of man and out of the dominion of who God is.

C. If God is the ONLY one who can grant to eternal life, this also means that God is the ONLY one who has the final and authoritative word in our lives.

- When we are fully devoted and dependent on Christ, we are no longer enslaved by the opinion of man. Instead, we are made fully alive in the word of Christ.
- The word of Christ is not only the laws we abide by, but also fully believing and embodying WHO God SAYS we are.
- This is important because God sees what man does not yet see.

D. God often affirms the things that man does not yet see.

- Desiring the praise / affirmation of man over the praise / affirmation of God makes it impossible to have faith.
- It requires faith to believe the dreams, prophecies, and promises God has made in your life.
- If only God is omniscient (all knowing), why do we allow others to speak into what they do not know or yet see? (dreams, purpose, potential, etc.)
- By primarily relying on the affirmation and approval of others, we give full authority, access, and sole accountability to
- In the Bible we see Jesus fulfilled OVER 300 PROPHECIES!
 - i. If Jesus did this, then why do we find it so difficult to believe that he will fulfill the prophecies + promises he has made in your life? Are our lives any less significant to the Father...? NO!

POINT 2 // AFFIRMATION REQUIRES SUBMISSION

A. In order to receive affirmation, we must be submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

- You can only be submitted to the Lordship of Jesus, if you understand who he is for yourself.

VS. 39 - "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life."

- The problem the Jews were having that John pointed out, is in all their knowledge of the Scriptures they still had no knowledge of WHO Jesus was. They did not seek out personal relationship with him.
- You can know the Scriptures, yet still not know Jesus....
- Eternal life is not found in simply reading Scripture.....Eternal life is found in a Messiah who we can get to know THROUGH the Scriptures.
- Being faithful in church, giving to missions, going to camp, etc. will not save you. Only Jesus will! Everything we do beyond that point is an overflow of love for Him!
- How then do I submit?? You put God back in the number 1 seat.

B. True Submission is allowing God to have the Number 1 seat in your life.

- SUBMISSION BY DEFINITION:
 - i. the action or fact of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another.
- By definition, whoever's word you are accepting or yielding to, is who has the ultimate authority in your life.
 - ii. Fill in the blank:
 - 1. The act or fact of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of _____.
 - iii. Whose name came to mind first? They may be the ultimate authority in your life.
- True submission is placing God back in the ultimate place of authority in your life and allowing His words / plan to be the superior force in your life!

ILLUSTRATION // Speak on a time when you were little and dreamed of what your life would look like at certain moments in time, but it did not end up that way.

Example: when I was little I remember looking up to high schoolers and dreaming/ thinking about what my life would be like then. I would dream of what prom would be like, my graduation, all the memories with friends.....then my senior year came and it was nothing like I envisioned, anticipated, or dreamed of. My senior year we moved. I didn't get to go to prom or football games, I didn't get to have the 'lasts' all seniors got to have, and I didn't get to walk across a stage in a cap and gown and get my diploma with my friends. I was really angry at God for what he was doing in my family's life at that point in time; however, it was in that season/ moment in my life that my faith was never more solidified in my life.

C. True submission means yielding your WHOLE life, which also means submitting the idea of what you thought it would look like.

- Full submission requires yieldedness throughout your ENTIRE life, which even means the parts of your life that have not happened yet.
- Many of you may be in the room and have dreams, plans, and desires for your life that have not happened or didn't happen and it has affected your submission to Jesus. (college acceptances, family circumstances, friend circles, romantic relationships, etc.)
- You may be angry at God because your life does not look like how you thought it would....

- When you are TRULY submitted to Christ, you begin to understand that his ways are often mysterious, but his plan is so much better than what you could hope or dream for.

RESPONSE //

SALVATION

- Always give opportunity for those who do not know Jesus, to come to know him!

ALTARS -> It's time to put Jesus back on the number 1 seat in our hearts!

- Create space for students to search their own hearts to recognize if they have simply been going through the motions + engaging with religion rather than truly engaging + loving Jesus! Allow a time of repentance from that and a time of worship to refocus their hearts on Him.
- Create space for students to lay down the approval of man + put God back in center of attention. That God's approval and attention would be the only thing that matters!