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INTRODUCTION

After a near-fatal plane crash in WWII, Olympian Louis “Louie” Zamperini is caught by the Japanese navy and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp. Louie refuses to surrender and fights for his life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What was the most challenging aspect of Derek’s message?
2. Do any positive images come to mind when you think of “surrender”? If so, what?

Read Mark 8:31-38

3. How would you summarize the message of this passage in 2 or 3 sentences?
4. Jesus tells his followers that they must “deny themselves”. What did this look like in Jesus’ life? (John 5:19-20; Mark 14:36)
5. How does denying one’s self for Jesus impact our lives? Does it lead to the individual’s benefit or detriment? (2 Timothy 2:8-13)
6. Based on Matthew 19:16-30, why was it impossible for the rich man to follow Jesus? (Hint: it’s not simply that he had money)
7. Why is surrender to God so important?
8. What would surrender to God look like in your life?

MOVING FORWARD

Surrender means to deny your rights, realizing that your life is not ultimately lived for yourself. This reality challenges the very nature of humanity but serves as the key to following Jesus. This week, meditate on 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.