

Into Your Hands; Luke 23:44-46

- I. Commit
 - A. To entrust for safekeeping ¹
 - B. Whom do we entrust our souls to?
 - C. To commit to another with confidence ²
 - D. At the end of our lives (because nobody gets out of life alive — life has a 100% death rate) our souls will be committed to whomever we have entrusted them
 - E. The world (Satan) or the Savior (Jesus and the Father)
- II. The World
 - A. The self-made person
 1. We put them on a pedestal
 2. We admire their hard work and dedication
 3. We hold them up as examples to our children
 4. They are the epitome of the American dream (rags to riches)
 5. This is why people from other countries flock to this one
 6. Everyone has the opportunity to become a self-made person
 7. The idea behind the phrase is that success is within the person and there are no outside factors that can hinder someone with such a desire
 8. While serving as the U.S. Senator for Kentucky, [Henry] Clay made a speech on the floor of the Senate on February 2, 1832 in which he said: “In Kentucky, almost every manufactory known to me, is in the hands of enterprising and self-made men, who have acquired whatever wealth they possess by patient and diligent labor.” ³
 9. It is interesting to note that this country was not founded on the self-made man principle, but on the idea of religious freedom
 10. We consider the self-made person to be a success
 - B. What is success?
 1. Favorable or desired outcome also: the attainment of wealth, favor, or eminence (a position of prominence or superiority) ⁴
 2. We have created a definition of success around the idea of the American dream
 3. We point to successful people
 - a) Those who have made a lot of money (Warren Buffet, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates)
 - b) Those who have fame (Humphrey Bogart, Billy Graham, Mariah Carey, Madonna)
 - c) Those who have power (Donald Trump, Chuck Schumer, Greg Abbott)
 - d) “The Crown” — Billy Graham (fame) meets Queen Elizabeth (Power)
 - C. Worldly definitions
 1. For those who have achieved worldly success and claimed the self-made person title — it is easy to see them entrusting themselves to the world
 2. When we define things like success in worldly terms, we lose the biblical understanding

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 772.

² Inc Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

³ “An Update on the Origin of the Term ‘a Self-Made Man’....” *This Day In Quotes*, ThisDayInQuotes.com, 15 Feb. 2015, www.thisdayinquotes.com/2010/02/updated-origin-of-self-made-man.html.

⁴ Inc Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

3. Things like fame, fortune, and power do not define the biblically successful person (although they may have achieved some of these things)
4. Instead of letting the world determine success or failure, we ought to view the biblical understandings of success and failure

III. The Savior

A. Solomon

1. He had an opportunity to ask for fame and fortune (he already had power)
2. 1 Kings 3 details the story of God asking Solomon what he wanted, Solomon's answer, and God's response
3. Solomon still got lost in fame, fortune, and power

B. Paul

1. Before Paul converted to Christianity he was considered a success by worldly (Pharisaical) standards
2. His education, his pedigree, his wealth — he was advancing quicker than peers
3. Galatians 1:14 (ESV); And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.
4. But Jesus considered him a failure and had to interrupt his path to success on the road to Damascus
5. Paul was likely married and had children — “be fruitful and multiply”
6. Philippians 3:5 (ESV); circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
7. Genesis 1:28 (ESV); And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
8. But Paul (after his conversion) understood the real (biblical) meaning of success
9. Philippians 3:7–11 (ESV); ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

C. Our success

1. How are we defining (our) success?
2. To whom are we committed?
3. To whom do we entrust ourselves?

IV. Into your Hands

- A. Luke 23:46 (ESV); Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.
- B. True success lies in the Father's hands (through the Savior, Jesus)
- C. We must entrust ourselves to the one who offers us life everlasting
- D. Galatians 2:20 (ESV); 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.