



The Illusion of More Control

1. We would agree that choosing to follow Christ means giving up control. Why do you think Jesus asks us to do it this way?
2. Mt. 26:39. Christ prayed, if possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not my will but yours be done. "Nevertheless": in other words, the Father's will was ultimately the important thing. His wrenching prayers and tears and pleading were secondary. Why could Jesus finally yield to God's will?
3. God has given us a free will, so what do we really have control over?
4. Can you share a story of how God has come through for you when you gave up control? Was it harder or easier than you thought?
5. We each have choices in the midst of crisis. Wayne Jacobsen, author of He Loves Me: Learning to Live in the Father's Affection encourages us to "pray the prayer that always gets answered" in every choice or crisis: "Father, save me!" Or. "Father, glorify your name." (John 12:27-28) The things you are clutching in your hands trying to control, can you turn those palms upside down and drop them? Can you trust Jesus enough to let Him control them and bring glory to His Father?
6. As you drop those things that you long to control yourself, know that He will pick them up, carry them Himself, and ask you to walk with Him under His yoke (Mt. 11:28-30). A good yoke is specifically made to fit the oxen which it pairs together, so that it makes the pulling of the load much easier. Specially made for you by Jesus ... "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Discuss the difference this knowledge makes when letting go of control.
7. As Christians living in Omaha, what are the areas that we most want to control? Are there ways we can help each other to turn control over to God?