

## 1 Coffin academy

- Experiencing Resurrection Life

## 2 Experiencing Death

- On a typical day in Daejeon, South Korea, Jung Joon puts several people into wooden coffins and pounds the lids shut with a wooden hammer.
- However, all these are people are alive.
- They are all part of a seminar in which people are paying to “experience” death and then “experience” a resurrection.

## 3 Dying to appreciate Life

- The ultimate niche industry, Jung’s seminars are targeted to address Korea’s huge suicide epidemic.
- Jung who is a suicide survivor wants to use death as a teaching tool.
- Teach people to appreciate their own lives as they face death head-on and face-to-face.

## 4 The Process

- The “corpses” show up for a four-hour session.
  - Begins with a lecture on how to live life at its fulness.
  - The participants write out goodbye letters to all their friends and family.
  - They even get to craft the wording of their own tombstone epitaphs.
  - Then, after attending their own funerals, the “deceased” climb into their own coffins for a time of darkness and contemplation.
  - After 10-minutes of being “dead,” the coffins are opened and the bodies are “resurrected.”
- Many report they are refreshed and others say they have a new perspective on living.

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## 6 A Growing Trend

- Jung’s seminar is just part of a growing trend; lots of similar seminars are popping up all over South Korea.
- In fact, Kyobo insurance company, has required all 4,000 of their employees to take a similar seminar.
- But not everyone is pleased over these developments.
- Some fear companies like Coffin Academy are actually training stressed out people that suicide and death are an answer to their problems.

## 7 Defeating Death

- We Christians understand that, on Easter, Jesus himself emerged from the darkness of a tomb.
- He wasn’t playing dead, but had experienced one of the worst kinds of deaths.

- Yet because of his willingness to die for the good of others, he defeated death where he became the first of many to experience “resurrection life.”

## 8 Emphasis on dying

- As strange as it may seem, Jesus taught his disciples the importance of death and how it was the gateway to real living.
- In all four Gospels, we have this statement by Jesus.
  - “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt 16:25-26 NIV)
  - If you look at the context, it has to do with being a follower of Jesus, “If anyone would come after me.” (Matt 16:24 NIV)
  - In other words, to be follower of Christ, we have to die in order to really live.

## 9 Abundant Life

- Again, according to Jesus, death is not just a destination, but a means to abundant living.
  - I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10 NRSV)
- When Jesus talked about dying to self, he was not talking about the death of our bodies. He is referring to the surrendering of our will to God’s will.
  - “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.” (Matt 16:24–25 NIV)

## 10 Abundant Life

- In other words, Jesus is saying to us, if we want to be his disciple, it is going to require us to put God’s will ahead of our own will, wants, fears, doubts, and personal agendas.
- And what is the result?
  - Abundant Life! (John 10:10)
  - Our Joy will be full. (John 15:11)
  - Peace that transcends all understanding. (Phil 4:7)
  - Intimate knowledge of God. (Col 1:10)
  - God’s favor upon our life and answered prayer. (1 Pet 3:10-12)
  - Good fruit that brings praise to God’s name. (Col 1:10)

## 11 Abundant Life

- However, sad to say, many people fail to surrender their wills to God and instead offer up religion and or personal piety as a replacement for obedience.
- God is not necessarily interested in our sacrifices: the length of our prayers, how long we fast, how much we read the Bible, or the energy we put in worship.

- For if we are not abiding in His word, he will not abide in us and we won't have abundant living. (John 15:7)
- Instead, we must pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. (1 Tim 6:11 NIV)

## 12 ABUNDANT LIFE

- “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb 12:2 NIV)
- Why did Jesus endure the cross?
- Who should we model?
- What did Jesus say in the garden on the night he was betrayed?
  - “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42 NIV)
  - And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. (Luke 22:44 NIV)

## 13 Abundant Life

- “You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.” (Heb 1:9 NIV)
- “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word . . .” (John 17:13-14 NIV)

## 14 Abundant Life

- The word “abundant” in the Greek means:
  - Exceedingly
  - Very High
  - Beyond Measure
  - More than one would expect or anticipate.
- In our lesson tonight, it is the byproduct of our faith and our understanding of God and His ways.
- However, our flesh, doesn't give up easy and will put up all kinds of resistance to deceive us through religion, mysticism, or self righteousness to keep us from surrendering our will.

## 15 Abundant Life

- The apostle Paul tells us something that is utterly profound: God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think and He does it by His power, a power that is at work within us if we surrender our ways to His ways. (Ephesians 3:20)
- According to the context of Ephesian 3, the definition of surrender is found in v. 9—rooted in love.

## 16 What is Love?

- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (1 Cor 13:4 NIV)
- It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (1 Cor 13:5 NIV)
- Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Cor 13:6-7 NIV)
- Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13 NIV)

## 17 Greater Love

## 18 Greater Love

- What would “greater love” look like in our lives?
  - Putting our family and marriage before your own career and personal pursuits.
  - Putting other people’s needs ahead of our own wants.
  - Forgive and forget, when most people hold on to resentment and bitterness.
  - Honoring our parents, teachers, or employers even when they aren’t perfect.
  - Listening to correction without getting bent out of shape.

## 19 Resurrected Life

- I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (Phil 3:10 NIV)
- The secret of having abundant life is found in the cross—the surrendering of our will to His will be done.
- There we have true life—and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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