

Digging Deeper During the Week!

We live a life worth dying for and sacrifice is our example from the Lord Jesus! *Threaded all through the New Testament the subject of our sacrifice for the Kingdom of Jesus is expressed and explained. .*

Monday **Sacrifice is What Jesus Did for Us!**
May 5 John 18.1-11

Living life on purpose means adopting and adapting our lives to the purposes of God. Jesus shows us that sometimes that purpose means loss.

- As Jesus goes into the garden, he ventured into the ‘valley of the shadow of death’ obeying God’s purpose. Can you describe a time when God has called you to give up in order to go up to the next step in His plan for your life?
- Jesus did not shirk his responsibility or the impending shame and pain. He boldly declared himself twice to his persecutors. What does this teach you of the importance of ‘standing for the faith’ when God calls you to step up and be counted, no matter the cost?

Tuesday **Sacrifice is the Core of Being Christ’s!**
6-May Romans 12.1-2

The will of God is perfect for our lives and that will begins with becoming a ‘living sacrifice’.

- Sacrifices die. Making our bodies a ‘living sacrifice’ means we are ‘the living dead’ physically. Our bodies, while alive, are accounted to our hearts and souls, and to God, as dead. What transformations would have to happen in your life to make this a reality?
- This sacrifice of our body is specific and requires a moment to understand. What are the elements of the sacrifice mentioned in this passage? What do you have to do to become a ‘living sacrifice’? What will you experience once you have become one?

Wednesday **Sacrifice is a Lifestyle We Imitate from Christ!**
7-May Ephesians 5.1-2

Sacrifice requires a model to follow, because we often do not understand how and what exactly God requires of us.

- We are to become ‘mimics’ of God, just as children mimic the actions of their parents on Earth. Being very practical, where do we discover the actions and attitudes of God, our Father? In order to mimic someone, what kind of time do you need to spend with them?

*“I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.” **Philippians 3:13 (NLT)***

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- This passage focuses us on one specific aspect of God’s behavior to mimic ... what is it? Who do we see this behavior best in? As you contemplate living this, the extended passage (3-7) contrasts God’s love with our normal tendencies. What distinctions come to mind as you consider these contrasts? How can you be more loving?

Thursday **Sacrifice for Others Should Cause Us to Rejoice!**
8-May Philippians 2.12-18

Joy comes from ‘working out’ our salvation in everyday life. This takes some calculating and evaluating to make our words and walk match.

- Obedience to Jesus – mimicking what God has called us to be and do – can be a challenge. What words describe the emotions this should bring to one’s life if they are working sincerely on having God work effectively in and through their lives (12-123)?
- As we work through this new life of obedience and sacrifice, there is a motivation – an end purpose – to all of our effort. What does this text tell us that should be (15-16)? How does this help us?

Friday **Sacrifice Daily Through Praise and Good Works!**
9-May Hebrews 13.15-16

Sacrifice is sometimes found in the most unusual places!

- Why would praise be a sacrifice? How can telling God how great He is be a ‘painful death’ of our self?
- Why would sharing with others and doing good be considered a self-death act of sacrifice? What dies when we share and do good?

Saturday **Sacrifice Today Yields a Crown of Righteousness Tomorrow!**

10-May 2 Timothy 4.6-8

Sacrifice on Earth is motivated by Jesus’ reward in Heaven!

- Paul’s testimony is that there comes a time when a lifestyle of sacrifice has run its course. What does he identify as the markers of such a stage in the life of sacrifice (6-7)?
- As we mimic the attitude and heart of Jesus Christ by serving those who are in need by means of sacrificing His personal convenience and comfort, we discover there is something reserved for us in eternity. What does a crown imply? How does this encourage us?