

Thankful for Jesus' Sacrifice

11-19-2023

Icebreaker

What is the biggest sacrifice anyone has ever made for you? —OR—

What is the biggest sacrifice you have ever made for someone? —OR—

How often do you see an action you could classify as a sacrifice being made?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading? (other than the designated reading)

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Scripture

Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV) ⁵ *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,* ⁶ *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,* ⁷ ***but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*** ⁸ ***And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***

John 1:14-15. 29-30 (ESV) ¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* ¹⁵ *(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")...*

²⁹ *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* ³⁰ *This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'*

John 3:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶ ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*** ¹⁷ ***For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.***

Matthew 20:28 (ESV) ²⁸ ***even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.***"

Romans 5:6-10 (ESV) ⁶ *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.* ⁷ *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—* ⁸ *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* ⁹ *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.* ¹⁰ *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

Luke 22:40-44 (ESV) ⁴⁰ *And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."* ⁴¹ *And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,* ⁴² *saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."* ⁴³ *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.* ⁴⁴ ***And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.***

Matthew 27:45-46 (ESV) ⁴⁵ *Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.* ⁴⁶ *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

Luke 23:46-47 (ESV) ⁴⁶ *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.* ⁴⁷ *Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"*

John 19:10-11 (ESV) ¹⁰ *So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?"* ¹¹ *Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."*

Colossians 1:21-22 (ESV) ²¹ And you, who **once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,** ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you **holy and blameless and above reproach before him,**

2 Timothy 1:8-10 (ESV) ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, **which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,** ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who **abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,**

John 18:36-37 (ESV) ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. **For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.**”

Questions

What did Christ sacrifice to come to earth? (Philippians 2:5-8, John 1) How would you describe what He gave up?

Why did God send His son into the world? (John 3:16-17, Matt 20:8) How much of a sacrifice was this for Him?

Christ died for us while we were still sinners (Rom 5:6-10). How hard do you think this was for a sinless person? What impact should this realization have on our lives?

(Luke 22:40-44; Matt 27:45-46) Did Christ want to die on the cross? How difficult was it for Christ to sacrifice His life for us?

When did Christ decide to sacrifice His life for us? (2 Tim 1:8-10; John 18:36-37) What does this indicate about His love for us?

Luke 23:46-47 tells us Christ committed His Spirit into God’s hands. What effect do you think this realization had on Christ’s ability to sacrifice His life for us? What effect should this have on our ability to entrust our Spirit to God and Christ?

What did Christ’s death do for us? (Col 1:21-22) Was Christ’s death the only way this could happen? What do we owe Christ in return for this sacrifice? How should our thankfulness for Jesus’ sacrifice motivate us?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Meditate on what Christ’s willingly sacrificed for us. Make a list of all the things He sacrificed.
- Meditate on what you have sacrificed for God this week.
- Meditate every day this week on what we should sacrifice for God.