



NOW

Ride or Die | Jordan Hansen

John 12:1-8

Halloween is over so lets prepare for Christmas...sacrifices. **Hallmark Sacrifices.** → Tyler Hynes

"The plot of every Hallmark movie is about a career woman who is too busy for love but she has to move to a small town where a handsome local bachelor teaches her about the true spirit of the holiday. It starts snowing and they kiss. There is also a dog." - Joel Doubleyou, Twitter → John 12:1-8

In week 1, we look at surrendering to God's will.

In week 2, we looked at trusting God to make a way and to provide for us.

Today...we're talking about giving sacrificially.

Most of us understand that sacrifice is an important part of life. We give up something we love for something or someone we love more. We give because God has ALREADY given! So, when the opportunity arises to give back to Jesus, we discover that God has prepared us for this moment, has changed our hearts, and He will fulfill HIS plan for our gift.

Why do we give sacrificially?

"Stop worrying about me. I joined the parachutists to fight. I intend to fight. If necessary, I shall die fighting, but don't worry about this because no war can be won without young men dying. Those things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice." - **David Webster of Easy Company of the 101st Airborne, during World War II**

12:1-2: 12 Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. 2 A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him.

We sacrifice because we're prepared. → Most giving...even faith giving...is done though preparation.

- Lazarus, Martha, had PREPARED...a meal, their home for guests... → Every Sunday we prepare...
- **Pull out your card.** → **Graph** → Last year...we prayed. → In HS, college... → Lord, what have you prepared me to give?
- Pray. Budget. Make sacrifices. → Prayer: Lord, prepare our hearts.

→ We sacrifice because God has prepared us to give. If this is a struggle...reflect back.

3 Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

4 But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, 5 "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." 6 Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.

We sacrifice because Jesus has changed our hearts. → How has God changed your heart?

- I sold my R6 to buy Tara's engagement ring. → Tara changed my life for the better. **She is my ride or die.**
- Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead! → Bethany/Magdalene (Lk. 8): Forgiven, redeemed, belonging = Priceless!
- **CHOSEN VIDEO:** How has God changed your life? → God has provided for me... paid off student loans.
- Mesa: "It's all about changed lives." → Nothing reflects a changed life MORE... than how we view money/trusting God.
- Judas' heart was with money, not God. → Mt. 6:21

→ We sacrifice bc God has prepared us to give, He has changed our hearts & for what God is going to do...

7 Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

We sacrifice to prepare for what God will do. → When we give sacrificially... we still give in faith.

- Mary may have known... or she didn't... that Jesus was heading to the cross... → We don't have to know how exactly God is going to use our gift. That is what makes it an offering... we offer it UP... & he determines its purpose.
- Mesa: God has a plan for Mesa and for THE Church. It needs our sacrificial support. → What does the future hold?
- Golden Shoes for Jesus (Helga Schmidt): 4 days to Christmas → long lines → 2 kids (5 & younger) → shiny gold slippers → \$6.09 / \$3 = "But Jesus would have loved these shoes..." → "Thank you lady." → "What did you mean...?" → "Our mommy..." → "My Sunday school teacher said the streets up in Heaven are shiny gold, just like these shoes. Won't my mommy be beautiful walking on those streets to match these shoes?"

→ We sacrifice bc God has prepared us to give, he's given us so much, and he has a plan for us, & for the church.

→ **Our sacrifices will never compare to what God has sacrificed for us.**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What sacrifices have I made in my life? What prompted me to give this way?
2. How has God changed my life? How has God made my life better? What is the value of this change?
3. How has God prepared my heart to give to the NOW initiative? What sacrifices am I making?
4. What do I believe God wants to do with Mesa Church? What does He want to do with THE Church?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, prepare my heart to give because of all the ways you have made a way for me!"

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Website:** Was Mary Magdalene the same person as Mary of Bethany? Guest Post, Jeffrey Bütz: <https://jamestabor.com/was-mary-magdalene-the-same-person-as-mary-of-bethany-a-guest-post-from-jeffrey-butz/>
- **Website:** "State of the Church": <https://www.barna.com/research/changing-state-of-the-church/>
- **Website:** "The Deeply Personal Reasons People Give Financially": <https://www.barna.com/research/true-generosity/>
- **Website:** Hallmark Christmas Movies: <https://www.hallmarkmoviesandmysteries.com/movies>
- **Book:** Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul: Golden Shoes for Jesus, pg. 56, Helga Schmidt
- **Videos:** Hall mark Spoof & The Chosen, Mary Magdalene Intro



QUOTES / SONGS:

"Ride or die" definition [ride till the end or die trying]: "When you are willing to do anything for someone you love or someone you really appreciate in your life. the person who you stand by in any problem and vice versa." - Urban Dictionary

"Stop worrying about me. I joined the parachutists to fight. I intend to fight. If necessary, I shall die fighting, but don't worry about this because no war can be won without young men dying. Those things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice." - David Webster of Easy Company of the 101st Airborne, during World War II

Scripture often refers to the Christian life as a war—a spiritual battlefield. To answer the question of hymn writer Isaac Watts, we will not be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease. And there is no victory apart from sacrifice. Just as our salvation was purchased at great cost, overcoming the enemy and walking in the Spirit require that we be willing to give up some things in order to triumph. - Source: Band of Brothers, Stephen E. Ambrose

A chaplain was ministering to a soldier in the hospital and said, "You have lost an arm in the great cause." The soldier replied, "I didn't lose it—I gave it."

Jesus did not lose His life either. He willingly gave it for us so we could be reconciled to God. - The Minister's Manual, Gerard Benjamin Fleet Hallock

"Maria Dyer was born in 1837 on the mission field in China where her parents were pioneer missionaries. Both her parents died when Maria was a little girl, and she was sent back to England to be raised by an uncle. The loss of her parents, however, did not deter her young heart from the importance of sharing the gospel. At age sixteen she, along with her sister, returned to China to work in a girl's school as a missionary herself. Five years later, she married Hudson Taylor, a man well-known today for his life of ministry, faith, and sacrifice.

Hudson and Maria's work was often criticized—even by other Christians. At one point Maria wrote, "As to the harsh judgments of the world, or the more painful misunderstandings of Christian brethren, I generally feel that the best plan is to go on with our work and leave God to vindicate our cause." Of their nine children, only four survived to adulthood. Maria herself died of cholera when she was just forty-three. But she believed the cause was worthy of the sacrifice. On her grave marker these words were inscribed: "For her to live was Christ, and to die was gain."

In a day when many are self-absorbed and care more about what they can get rather than what they can give, we need a renewal of sacrificial love. It was God's love for us that sent Jesus into the world to die for our sins, and it is that kind of giving love that our world needs so greatly today. When we love God as we should, our interests fade as we magnify Him."

- The Jubilee Story of the China Inland Mission, Marshall Broomhall

"Fifty-six men signed the Declaration of Independence. Their conviction resulted in untold sufferings for themselves and their families. Of the fifty-six, five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army. Another had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-six fought and died from wounds or hardships of the war.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships sunk by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in poverty.

At the battle of Yorktown, the British general Cornwallis had taken over Thomas Nelson's home for his headquarters. Nelson told General George Washington to open fire on the Nelson home. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. His fields and mill were destroyed. For over a year, he lived in forests and caves, returning home only to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later, he died from exhaustion." - Resource, September/October, 1992, Submitted by the homiletics class of West Coast Baptist College

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Matthew 6:21

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also

Ezekiel 36:24-27

24 "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

John 3:30

30 He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

MESA VISION LINKS:

- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

NEXTS STEPS:

- [Fill Out an Online Connect Card](#)
- [Join a Small Group](#)
- [Get Water Baptized](#)
- [Become a Partner of Mesa Church](#)
- [Join a Dream Team to Serve on Sundays](#)
- [Give to what God is doing](#)
- [Submit a Prayer Request](#)
- [Learn More About Fasting](#)
- [Share a testimony or story of God working in my life.](#)

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