

**I. Review/Previous Sessions**

**A. Wired for Purpose**

**B. How to discover purpose throughout your life.**

**C. The Important Role of Fulfillment.**

*Everyone needs fulfillment.*

**D. What's Warring Against Your Purpose.**

*Moses dealt with extreme inferiority!*

**E. Distractions**

**II. The Necessary Sacrifice**

**A. Sacrifice**

**1. Self-giving**

**2. The giving of the heart and mind in conscious commitment**

**3. The giving of sufficient time and effort**

**4. The giving of material things if necessary**

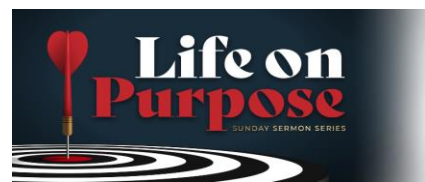
**5. The giving of the wholeness of oneself in life.**

**B. To sacrifice means "It will cost you something!"**

**1. It isn't free.**

**2. It isn't without cost.**

**3. Investment required.**



- C. The fulfillment of PURPOSE will always require sacrifice.**
- 1. Career paths have different educational/training requirements.**
  - 2. Fulfilling purpose requires a commitment of time and effort.**
  - 3. Financial sacrifice may be necessary.**
- D. The fact that “Sacrifice is Required”, stops some people from pursuing their purpose.**
- 1. We need to be aware that God’s plan doesn’t include everything freely dropping from the sky.**
  - 2. Whatever we desire to do in life will require the seed of sacrifice.**
  - 3. Everyone wants a harvest – few are willing to sow in the season of sacrifice.**
  - 4. For those who will sacrifice – your sacrifice is your seed – and you seed will always produce a harvest.**
- E. What does the Bible say?**
- 1. Romans 12:1 (NKJV) – *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.***
    - God’s plan is for us to present our bodies – as a living sacrifice.
    - When I awake in the morning – it may seem like a sacrifice to get out of bed.
    - It is a sacrifice to offer the use of my energy, time, labor, voice.
    - A sacrifice pleasing to God – which is my reasonable service.  
*God is pleased when I sacrifice myself for HIS purpose!  
Reasonable service – this is true/pure worship.*

**2. Jesus emphasized the necessity of personal sacrifice.**

- a. **Luke 14:26 (NLT)** – *If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple*

**NOTE:** *Jesus wasn't telling us to hate others – He was telling us that HE must always be first – "I must come first above all others". Keeping God first – requires sacrifice.*

- *Personal – Sacrifice in the ministry*
- *Family gatherings*
- *Holidays*

- b. *Sacrifice is counting the cost*

**Luke 14:27-33 (NLT)** – <sup>27</sup>*And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. <sup>30</sup>They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!' <sup>31</sup>"Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? <sup>32</sup>And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. <sup>33</sup>So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.*

**NOTE:** *Whatever purpose you pursue in life will require sacrifice. We should COUNT THE COST before we begin! Sacrifice – is being willing to give some things up.*

- *Many career paths require you to give some things up for a season.*
- *Many purpose paths require personal sacrifice of time and other things – for a season.*
- **BUT THERE WILL BE HARVEST TIME!**

- c. **Mark 10:28-30 (NKJV)** – <sup>28</sup>*Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." <sup>29</sup>So Jesus answered and said,*

*“Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, <sup>30</sup>who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.*

**d. His will – His purpose is worth the sacrifice.**

***Sacrifice appears to be a loss for a season.***

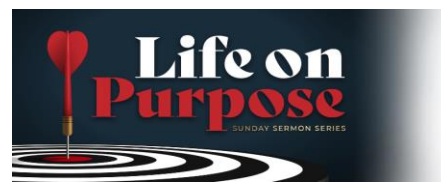
***Sacrifice is not really a loss.***

- e. **Luke 5:1-9 (NLT)** – <sup>1</sup>One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. <sup>2</sup>He noticed two empty boats at the water’s edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.” <sup>5</sup>“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” <sup>6</sup>And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! <sup>7</sup>A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. <sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” <sup>9</sup>For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.

**NOTE:** Peter did not sacrifice with a good attitude. Peter reaped an unusual harvest of fish – because he was willing to sacrifice his boat/effort and time.

**III. Closing Remarks**

- A. God’s purpose for our life will cost you in the sowing season, but it will be well worth it in the harvest season.**



- B. We need to count the cost – of our purpose pursuits and do whatever necessary to be willing to sacrifice the cost.**
- C. We need to be on guard about tossing our purpose aside simply because it will cost us something.**  
*What if the apostles/early church leaders had counted the cost as too much?*  
*What if the people who have influenced your life – counted the cost as being too much?*  
**Remember** – *Someone sacrificed for you to be where you are today.*
- D. We especially need to be guarded when telling God that we are not willing to sacrifice for His kingdom work.**
- 1. People today do not want to commit to the work of God.**
  - 2. There is a shortage of volunteers in most churches.**
  - 3. There is a shortage of pastors across the nation.**
  - 4. Remember – whatever God asks us to sacrifice, there is a harvest attached to.**
- E. Personal Examples – *It was worth the sacrifice***
- 1. Leaving our first home.**
  - 2. Moving across country.**
  - 3. Leaving family behind.**
  - 4. Salaries that weren't enough.**
- F. Things are developed in the sacrifice that otherwise will be missing.**