



Jesus, Worthy of Our Sacrifice

Hebrews 5:4-10

We as Christians all know that Jesus is more than worthy of sacrifice. From two perspectives: First, from God's perspective. He was, and is, the perfect Son of God. Only Jesus could have been the sacrifice offered on our behalf while actually ending all other sacrifices for our sins. Nothing can compare to the sacrifice of Christ. Second, from our human perspective as believers living our life under His grace he is worthy of us sacrificing in our lives to Him. I do not think the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf was easy. Witness the garden on that last night... As a result, I do not think the process to make us Christ like is necessarily supposed to be an easy one. I think that God's perfection being molded within us requires sacrifice.

Thinking about my acceptance of Christ and my conversion, I doubt I would have made that decision if there were doubts not about who Jesus is, but doubts about His ability to be the sacrifice I needed for my sins. If he was unworthy to be that sacrifice, then what's the point?

As Christians, we must have arrived at the same type of conclusion about Jesus. Therefore, I have chosen to go with the second perspective of Jesus, worthy of our sacrifice. *Our sacrifice to Him in our lives.*

It seems to me sacrifice is just something that is done, or not done, depending upon one's character. Sacrifice can be a big bold action, usually done in the spur of the moment, or the everyday little actions that make up our daily lives. As we grow stronger with Christ, sacrifice should just become part of whom we are; sacrificing for our spouses, our children. Sacrificing our desires for others should be something we do naturally, without grumbling or contrary thoughts...

Therefore, this lesson is intentionally short, as I anticipate a lively discussion over the everyday sacrifices we undertake, and how our Lord is indeed worthy of our sacrifices, and yet at the same time I suspect there will not be a large amount of personal experiences shared, Talking about the things we ourselves do is hard, and after all... *our Heavenly Father, who sees what is done in secret...*

Maybe I will be very wrong.

I found this story on line when I Googled "stories of sacrifice."

There is a story told of a young boy whose older brother was in a car crash. The father approached the younger son shortly after the crash and said, "Son, if you will, you older brother

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needs a blood transfusion in order to live. The doctors have determined that only you can provide this blood. Will you provide blood for your brother so that he may live?" The younger son did not hesitate in answering he would indeed help his older brother. Unknown to the little boy was the relative simplicity and safety of the procedure.

The car ride to the hospital was unusually quiet for this normally very talkative little boy. The father, at the same time in the most awkward and difficult position of his entire life, thought best to leave the young boy to his own thoughts. The father and young boy entered the now familiar doors of the town hospital. As the father and son sat in the hospital room, the nurse entered with the needle in hand. She commented how courageous the young boy was, prepared the boys right arm as she had done to hundreds of other patients over the years, and slowly inserted the needle into his arm; the vial began to quickly fill with the young boys blood. After the vial filled, the young boy, with tears in his eyes, turned to his father and asked, "Daddy, how long do I now have before I die?"

Sacrifice. What an interesting word. It seems to have such wide spread meaning. In Christian circles, we speak of the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf, but what does it mean to sacrifice *for* Jesus?

What makes something a sacrifice?

Give some examples of our sacrificing for Jesus...

What kinds of sacrifices, if any, are **required** on our part?

Do these sacrifices or lack thereof, have consequences, good or bad for us?

Is a sacrifice "*for*" Jesus something we do with Him in mind or can it be everyday things we do in life?

What does that look like?

If it's just an everyday thing, is it still a sacrifice?

A Minister friend of mine once told me that every Christian should see "Saving Private Ryan." At the end of the movie the Tom Hanks character, as he is dying says to Private Ryan; "Earn this James, earn it." If we can't earn our salvation, what is the significance of that type of comment or thought process?

I doubt if most of us think of the everyday sacrifices we make. There will of course be the occasional sacrifice that we make intentionally, but as a whole I often wonder as I strive to live the perfection God has called me to live if it might be manifested, in some way to someone, in the daily sacrifices we perform.

A TAKE AWAY THOUGHT:

At what point in the Christian walk do you think we no longer realize or think we are making a sacrifice? That that type of lifestyle has finally become ingrained in us?