

Sacrifices of Many

Romans 12:1 – 8

I. Intro

- A. **SHOW VIDEO** – “The Sacrifices of Many, not just the Gifts of a Few
- B. **ASK:** Imagine – Have a job, pretty new on this job, there are 10 employees you work with, realized that everyday you and one other person in this job are doing all the work (just 2 out of 10), how would you feel?
- C. **ASK:** Continue – 30 years have passed, you’re still in same job, people have come and gone through the 30 years, but it’s still just you and one other person out of 10 doing all the work, but now you go to the boss and tell them that you’ve worked hard for 30 years, you’re older now, and it’s time for you to let someone else do the work, still want to come to work, but it’s time you turned over all you’ve been doing to someone else, how do you think the boss is going to react?
- D. Think about the church, any church – common that for every 10 people in the church only 2 are doing all the work; some have been part of those “2” for many, many years and they’ve reached the point where their attitude is *I’ve done my time, it’s now time to step back, quit working, and let someone else work, but still be part of the church*; **ASK:** How do you think this makes the Lord feel?
- E. **READ Romans 12:1 – 8**
- F. Three areas of sacrifice every believer, every church member

II. Time

- A. **ASK:** How many feel they have no extra time during any given day? Why is that? What are some of those things that fill up our day?
- B. **READ Acts 2:42 – 47**
- C. **ASK:** What was different back then? Not have jobs, not have families, not have bills to pay?
- D. **Key** - ... *they devoted themselves*; all comes down to what we choose to devote ourselves to
- E. devoted (Gr.) - *to persevere; be constantly diligent; to adhere closely to as a servitor*; it all comes down to choice
- F. What they were devoted to: teaching of Christ, OT and prophets; fellowship – involved not just socializing but participation in the body and sharing of possessions; breaking of bread – Lord’s Supper remembrance; prayer
- G. All of these areas required sacrifice of time; instead of filling up their days with things that were of no spiritual benefit they chose to fill up as much of their time as possible with things that were spiritually beneficial

H. Video quote: *If your only interaction with other believers is on the weekend, then you're missing out; God did not intend church service times to be the only time we spent time with and interacted with brothers and sisters in Christ*

I. **REFER Romans 12:2** – It's the world, the evil powers in this world, that distract us away from God, worship of God, fellowship with believers

J. Acts 2:46 (NIV)

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. ...

III. Talent

A. Before making sacrifice of our unique gifts and abilities for the church, you have to first be willing to sacrifice time; people grow closer together when they serve together – so if there is no serving, or the serving is very limited, what does that say about the fellowship among the people?

B. **REFER Romans 12:4 - 8**

C. **READ 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 19, 27 – 28**

D. **ASK:** What areas do you personally see in our church where we need more people willing to offer sacrifice of their unique gifts and talents to serve?

E. **Question:** What area(s) in our church is there a need where you can offer sacrifice of your unique gifts and talents to serve?

IV. Treasures

A. Acts 2:45 (NIV)

45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

B. **Question:** When's the last time any of us sold something we owned in order to bless and provide for someone in need who wasn't a relative?

C. **Question:** When's the last time any of us sold something we owned in order to bless and provide for a fellow believer in need?

D. **REFER Romans 12:3** – one way to describe a person who – *thinks of himself more highly than he ought* – is selfish; Agreed?

E. **Question:** When one refuses to bless others because of the way God has blessed them, isn't that being selfish? So, one who doesn't admit that the "treasures" they have are all from God is a selfish person – right?

Therefore, they have a higher opinion of themselves than they ought

F. Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

G. Matthew 12:35 (ESV)

35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

H. Rich young man: Matthew 19:21 (NIV)

21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

- i. **Question: Think Jesus was just kidding with this man? Think Jesus was being too extreme in his request of this man? No**

V. Close

A. 1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

B. Question: How can we be people who say we belong to God and declare His praises if we're not offering ourselves as living sacrifices in our time, talents, and treasures?

C. Question: How can we be people who say we belong to God and declare His praises and speak of being recipients of God's mercy and yet not offer mercy to those who desperately seek it?

D. REFER Romans 12:1

E. We must be a church that is built on the sacrifices of many, not just the gifts of a few