

Mission Marker: Sacrifice

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Mission Marker: Sacrifice – What it Costs

We are devoted to **surrender** our lives for His glory.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom. 12:1-2

I. We are called to a **realistic** life.

a. Don't expect a **comfortable** life.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

b. God will **not give** us more than we can **handle**.

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Cor. 10:13

c. Our **strength** comes directly from God.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

II. We are called to **give**.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt. 6:21

a. Called to give our **time**.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33

b. Called to give our **talents**.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

c. Called to give our **finances**.

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce. Proverbs 3:9

III. We are called to follow the Lord **wholeheartedly**.

“Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹ I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. ¹² Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.” Joshua 14:10-12

- a. We too must possess a **“different”** spirit in order to be pleasing to God.

But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him in the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. Num. 14:24

- b. We must be **steadfast** in our **commitment** to God despite our circumstances.
- c. There is **“no retirement plan”** in doing the Lord’s work.

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. Luke 9: 23-26

Next Steps

1. Take inventory-
 - a. Do I spend my time, talents, finances wisely?
 - b. What am I currently doing?
 - c. What do I do well?
 - d. What do I enjoy doing?
 - e. Where is the need?
 - f. Where is God currently working in my life?
2. Join a Group-in-Common service group.
3. Pray for God to use your talents.
4. Ask God for tasks that will keep you learning, growing, and a little uncomfortable.
5. In working through problems and challenges, may I have the willingness to become the person God wants me to be.
6. Learn to depend on God wholeheartedly.