

How We Change: Sacrifice

January 22-23, 2022: Dary Northrop

This provides about one hour of discussion, music, and readings.

As a springboard for discussion and further study, use the portions you find most valuable.

1. Understanding sacrifice as a **spiritual practice**

- Dallas Willard defines sacrifice like this: Deliberately forsaking the security of satisfying our own needs with our resources in the faith and hope that God will sustain us.
- How can I develop sacrifice as a spiritual practice rather than an occasional event?
- What are some ways that Jesus sacrificed for the benefit of others? Why is it helpful in our own walk to think about what Jesus did?
- How does obedience play a role in sacrifice?

2. **Motive matters** when practicing sacrifice.

- Read **Hebrews 13:15**, **Romans 12:1**, and **1 Corinthians 9:17-27**. What are some ways that Paul illustrates sacrifice?
- During my daily life, how can I practice putting others before myself?
- In what area in my own life do I tend to turn away from willing sacrifice?

Consider an **example** of sacrifice: the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

These are the steps toward sacrifice that the Good Samaritan demonstrated:

- a. He **saw** the man.
- b. He **felt compassion**.
- c. He **went** to him.
- d. He **cared** for him.
- e. He **traveled** with him.
- f. He **paid** for him.
- g. He **followed up** with him.

How can these steps apply to our own sacrifices? Discuss this.

On your own time, think about these questions:

- As opportunities arise, what can I do to become more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and not make a “rule” about how or when to sacrifice for others?
- How can I be more willing to sacrifice and not excuse myself from the work it would require?

Close with reading **Hebrews 13:16** and prayer.

If you have a prayer need, please ask a friend here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.