



HEART

Sermon Series



Companion Discussion Guide

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A Reasonable Sacrifice

Read: 2 Samuel 24:1-25

We may not realize it, but we are constantly faced with the following question, "Is what I am giving up worth what I am getting?" It determines what we do in each area of our lives, both big and small. It applies to our job. If our pay is worth the time and effort we give, then we continue. If it doesn't, then we look for another job. If we see the time we spend with a friend as being valuable, then we will choose to give up reading a book or going for a walk to spend that time with them. If we believe that going to a movie is worth the price we pay, then we go. If not we don't or we wait to see it later when the price isn't so great.

Life is filled with these choices, these sacrifices. Do we give up that piece of cake to get closer to our health goals? Do we change a channel and avoid a tv show we know is inappropriate or do we overlook it for entertainment purposes. Cost and benefit. Sacrifice and reward.

Following God involves daily choices. Having peace with God and positioning ourselves to receive the fullness of His favor means that followers of Christ need to live sacrificially. We have the opportunity to forgive when we have the right to be angered. We have the opportunity to serve Him with our lives or pursue dreams that we think will bring us happiness. To get one we must sacrifice the other. Following Jesus is a sacrifice, but as we will see, David clearly understands that making sacrifices for God is more than reasonable; it is honoring to God and the only response he could give to the Lord

Starter question:

What is something you've purchase that has been worth the price you paid for it?

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Discussion Questions:

Start off talking about anything that captured the attention or heart of those in your group. Then, as you feel led, take time to go through as many or as few of the questions as you have time for.

1. Read 1 Chronicles 21:1-30. This passage is similar, but slightly different from the 2 Samuel 24 passage. What new information do you learn from the 1 Chronicles passage? What is different from the 2 Samuel passage? How does it help your understanding of what takes place in the story?
2. Look at verse one in both 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21. Note the key difference there. Does this help explain the nature and depth of David's reaction throughout the story? Explain. Look at David's reaction in 2 Samuel 24:10,14,17.
3. Look at 2 Samuel 24:18. David is directed by Gad, the prophet, to go and build an altar to the Lord on Araunah's threshing floor. He wasn't directed to purchase the property. What does that tell you about David's actions? 1 Chronicles 21:20 tells us that Araunah was actually threshing wheat when David arrived. Araunah was willing to give the floor he was using as well as oxen, wood, and wheat for the sacrifice. What does this tell you about his willingness to sacrifice for David, the nation of Israel, and the Lord? How have you sacrificed for the good of others in the past?
4. Look at the following passages in which Jesus describes the cost or the sacrifice that is required to follow Jesus. What do the passages reveal to you?

Matthew 8:18-22 —*When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. ¹⁹ Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." ²⁰ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." ²¹ Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let*

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me go and bury my father." ²² But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Luke 14: 25-33 — Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

5. What have you had to sacrifice to follow God? Describe any sacrifices you feel you've made, big or small. Do any of the following passages reflect the type of sacrifice that you have experienced as you have followed Jesus:

Romans 12:1— 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.

Matthew 5:38-41 — "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

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Matthew 5:44-45b — *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven.*

6. What have you gained or what rewards have come from making a commitment to sacrificially follow Jesus?
7. Look at Mark 10:17-27 – Here the rich young ruler is unable to make a sacrifice to fully follow Jesus? What got in his way? What can often get in our way as we seek to follow Jesus sacrificially? Why do those things get in the way? How can we overcome them?

Living it Out — See if you can complete the following statements.

I acknowledge that I sometimes struggle to make the reasonable sacrifices to follow Christ because...

Because Christ is worthy of my praise and my commitment to pursue Him I choose to begin or continue to live sacrificially for him by...

Closing Prayer:

Take time to pray for one another. Commit to follow Jesus sacrificially, and ask for the willingness to daily count the cost of being a disciple; loving and serving God more fully and love others more deeply.

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