

Not First #8:
SACRIFICE

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 21:1-4

Discussion Questions

1. What sacrificial thing has someone done for you?
2. In this generation of “me first” mentality, it is quite difficult to ask someone to sacrifice their comfort, time, or resources for the sake of others, even among Christians. We are willing to make a sacrifice if it benefits ourselves, like when we give up a stable job to start a business; but we find it very difficult to give up something for the sake of others. But sacrifice at its root level is first and foremost about others. How do you practice/demonstrate sacrifice? Examine if what you view as a sacrifice is about yourself or about others.
3. In this generation of entitlement, the Bible teaches us to practice the spiritual discipline of sacrifice. Read Luke 21:1-4. Here we learn about three principles of sacrifice:
 - a. **God notices the sacrifice of small things (v. 1-2).** Sacrifice is giving up what you already have in order to draw closer to God. From these two verses, what did Jesus observe the rich men were doing? On the other hand, what did He notice about what the poor widow did? Jesus took notice and commended the widow’s offering instead of the rich men who gave more money. Discuss why your motives in giving matter more to God rather than the amount of what you have given. Share examples of small sacrifices that the Lord notices when it is done for His sake.
 - b. **God assesses sacrifice based on how it affects you (v. 3-4).** Sacrifice means your giving has to affect you somehow. If it doesn’t hurt you or transform you, then it is not as sacrificial as you think. How does the Jesus describe the widow’s offering? Why do you

think that giving out of abundance is a rather easy thing to do? How are you sacrificially giving to God? Is what you are giving to God a mere leftover of what you have? On the other hand, does sacrifice mean that it is okay to neglect your other obligations in life? Why or why not?

- c. **God teaches you the lesson of faith and trust when you sacrifice (v. 2-4).** The Bible stresses that the woman was poor and a widow. As a widow, there was no one to take care of her (this is why the Bible admonishes to take care of the poor and the widow), yet in her two mites she gave all that she had. The Bible says that God will take care of His children’s needs. How do you see faith in this woman that God would take care of her? What do you think happened to her after she had given everything she had? Share an experience when God has provided after you have sacrificially given something for His sake. How does sacrificial giving teach you about faith and trust? How does big faith starts from small sacrifices?

Walk

Christmas is a story about sacrifice; every character in the Christmas story made sacrifices. Describe what sacrifice did Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and Jesus Christ make for God’ sake. How about you? Besides money, what can you give sacrificially to others this Christmas for the sake of Christ? How do you plan to do it?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the lessons on the spiritual discipline of sacrifice. Thank You for the reminder that sacrifice is not about me but about others done for Your sake. Thank You that You notice the sacrifice of even small things, and You assesses it based on how it affects me. Thank you also for the lesson of faith and trust when I sacrifice. As I think of the sacrifices made by my Lord Jesus Christ for my sake, may I also willingly sacrifice for the good of others, doing it for Your glory alone. In Jesus’ name. Amen.