

# Lost Words: Sacrifice

Dr. Les Hughes

June 28, 2009

## Important Items in Worship

1. Les introduced our new Student Pastor, Micah Millican, and his wife, Laurie, to the church family. Micah shared a few things about himself, namely being a Kentucky Wildcat fan like his new Senior Pastor. He also shared three keys to success in Student Ministry: 1) Teaching students to develop spiritual habits, Building key relationships in their lives with Godly leaders, and to 3) create challenging spiritual experiences for students that stretch their faith. These are three key chapters that studies show keeps teens in the faith and in the church following graduation.
2. "Be A Rock Star" is the current emphasis. All Westwood members are encouraged to find a place to "serve in the church."
3. The Tailgate Party is coming up tonight. Be sure to sign up for a space and make plans to attend.

## Outline of Sermon

1. Radical mercy requires a radical response
2. Expressions of sacrifice flow from a life of sacrifice
3. Sacrifice that pleases God is a deliberate act of my will, not just a reflex to current circumstances

## Scripture: Romans 12:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer 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.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup>Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be

lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

### Other Passages Sited

Romans 3:23      all have sinned

Romans 5:8-9      God demonstrates His own love

Ex 20:2

Heb 13:15-16      Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God

2 Sam. 24:24      I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing

1 Cor. 5:7

Heb. 10:12

## Group Session

### Opening Question

Where do we see sacrifice in our society today?

Have you ever had to sacrifice anything?

### Definitions of Sacrifice:

An act of offering something valuable to a deity.

The object that is sacrificed

Destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something or someone else.

### Digging for Truth

1. Read the Romans 12:1-2. How can sacrifice be a “spiritual act of worship”?

Have you ever sacrificed in a worshipful way?

2. Life-changing Lesson #1 says, “**Radical mercy requires a radical response.**” How does God’s sacrifice motivate us to sacrifice for Him? (Romans 5:8-9)

3. Life-changing Lesson #2 says, “**Expressions of sacrifice flow from a life of sacrifice.**” How can we live a life of sacrifice? Does it get easier when it is a lifestyle?

4. Discuss this comment: “In a general way, God requires sacrifice from every one of us. His specific sacrifices are different from person to person.”

Is it true or not? What are some ways you may be called to sacrifice that others are not?

5. Les gave us a list of possible sacrifices. Which of these is no problem for you and which is a challenge?

People who are Living Sacrifices...

- Use their spiritual gifts
- Are no Hypocritical
- Life others up instead of tearing them down
- Hate evil and cling to what is good
- Are devoted to prayer
- Give to others in need
- Practice hospitality
- Bless those who persecute them
- Share in the blessings of others
- Share in the sorrow of others

6. Life-changing Lesson #3 says, “**Sacrifice that pleases God is a deliberate act of my will, not just a reflex to current circumstances.**”

Although both can be honorable, why is a deliberate act of my will best? What are some examples of deliberate sacrifices that we can make?

7. It has been said that the problem with living sacrifices is that they keep crawling off of the altar. What does this mean as related to the sacrifices we make for God?

Why is life this way? How can we remedy the recalling of sacrifice in our lives?

### **Closing Thoughts**

Is there anything God is calling you to sacrifice as a result of the sermon or this lesson? For accountability, I urge you to share this with someone else in the next 24 hours.