

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Heart of Sacrifice: For the week of May 24 - 30, 2020

Scripture:

"As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ²He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'"
(Luke 21:1-4 NIV)

Observation:

It is not only what the widow gave that was significant, rather it was how she gave. She gave sacrificially which is an outward demonstration of her obedience and faith in God. She also gave without the pretense of being recognized for her sacrifice. However, Jesus took notice and was pleased.

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped."
(Proverbs 11:24-25 MSG)

"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." (Romans 12:1 NIV)

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." (1 John 3:16 NIV)

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13 ESV)

Main Thought:

Scripture teaches to not only give sacrificially, but to live sacrificially. This is done by surrendering our lives to God, through living obediently to Him. The grace to sacrifice first comes from a heart rooted in God's love. While sacrifices are costly, we know it is worth it because of the love that God has demonstrated to us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Discussion Question Options *(choose those that apply):*

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scriptures above and why?
- Describe a time when you sacrificed for someone and/or for God. What did you learn/experience?
- Describe a time when someone else sacrificed for you. What did you learn/experience?
- How is God calling you to live sacrificially during this crisis?

Prayer:

- Pray for one another that God will give us the grace and strength to live obediently and sacrificially.
- Pray for opportunities to meet the needs of others during this crisis.