

A golden altar with a fire on top, set against a dark, cloudy sky. The altar is ornate with a flat top and four small golden finials at the corners. The fire is bright and glowing, with a dark plume of smoke rising from it. The background is a dark, overcast sky with some light clouds. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

Must I Make a Sacrifice?

**Romans 12:1-2**

# Must I Make a Sacrifice?

- Rom. 12:1-2 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

# Who Am I?

- Mark 12:41-44 - “Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

# The Widow Who Gave Up Her Living

- It is not a sacrifice if we give only what we can afford, whether it is money, possessions, time, etc.
  - 2Cor. 8:1-5 - “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”

# The Widow Who Gave Up Her Living

- It is not sacrifice unless it is given for the right purpose and for the right reasons. Jesus was watching how people gave
  - Matt. 6:2 - “Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”

# Who Am I?

- Phil. 3:4-8 - “Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ”

# A Preacher, Paul

- 2Cor. 11:23-28 - “Are they ministers of Christ? --I speak as a fool--I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”

# A Preacher, Paul

- Sacrifice involves the relinquishment of all personal accomplishments for Christ. There is nothing man can achieve that is too noble to sacrifice for the sake of Christ
  - Matt. 16:25-26 - “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

# A Preacher, Paul

- It is not a sacrifice when we try to serve God from our recliner. If our life doesn't involve personal loss and suffering for the sake of Christ, then we have made no sacrifice
  - John 15:20 - “Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”
  - 2Tim. 3:12 - “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

# Who Am I?

- Heb. 11:8-10 - “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”
- Gen. 22:1-12

# A Pilgrim, Abraham

- Sacrifice is to obey God regardless of impact on our family
  - Matt. 10:37 - “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

# A Pilgrim, Abraham

- Sacrifice means that we trust God to provide whatever we need. Abraham didn't know what kind of land awaited him
  - Prov. 3:5-6 - “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

# Spiritual Sacrifices Acceptable To God

- 1Peter 2:5, 9 - “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”
- What is the spirit of sacrifice?

# What Sacrifices Must We Make?

- Our bodies, as living sacrifices
  - Rom. 12:1-2
- Our manner of life characterized by sacrificial love
  - Eph. 5:1-2 - “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

# What Sacrifices Must We Make?

- Our praise and thanksgiving, by prayer and song
  - Heb. 13:15 - “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

# What Sacrifices Must We Make?

- Our sharing with others
  - Heb. 13:16 - “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
  - Phil. 4:15-18 - “Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.”

# What Sacrifices Must We Make?

- Our dying for the Lord
  - Phil. 1:20 - “According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”
  - Phil. 2:17 - “Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.”
  - 2Tim. 4:6 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.”

# The Purpose Of Our Sacrifices

- In the Old Testament, sacrifices were offered to restore those out of fellowship with God and by those wanting to thank the Lord for His care
- But in the New Testament, only Jesus can provide the sacrifice needed to restore us back to God (Heb. 10:11-18); we cannot sacrifice our way into heaven.
- All of our sacrifices are to express thanksgiving and praise, love and devotion, for the goodness and mercy God has shown to us!

# The Nature Of Our Sacrifices

- It must be the best we have to offer - Mal. 1:6-11
- It must be offered with sincerity and zeal - Mal. 1:12 - 2:9
- It must be offered in conjunction with righteous lives - Mal. 2:13-16
- Mal. 3:13-18