

Small Groups Guide

2 Samuel 1:17-27 and Mark 10:32-34

Sunday June 4, 2023

1. Give the group some time to just talk and share one another's joys/concerns.
2. Prayer (ask if anyone wants anything in particular prayed for)
3. Go over last Sunday's sermon.
 - a. Does anyone remember the sermon well enough to summarize it for the group?
 - i. Summary: So often we get caught up in living for ourselves ... doing what we want and what is best for us. However, we read a scripture in 2 Samuel 1:17-27 in which David memorializes King Saul and Jonathon for the sacrifices that they made. David wants everyone to remember his lament so that they can remember the sacrifice that King Saul and Jonathon made. This idea of sacrifice is held in high esteem in the New Testament ... especially in the gospels (Mark 10:32-34) where Jesus describes that his own life is one of sacrifice for God and others. Self-sacrifice is not only noble, but can change the world.
 - b. Read Mark 10:32-34 (MSG)

32-34 Back on the road, they set out for Jerusalem. Jesus had a head start on them, and they were following, puzzled and not just a little afraid. He took the Twelve and began again to go over what to expect next. "Listen to me carefully. We're on our way up to Jerusalem. When we get there, the Son of Man will be betrayed to the religious leaders and scholars. They will sentence him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Romans, who will mock and spit on him, give him the third degree, and kill him. After three days he will rise alive."

 - i. Take one minute and discuss all the things that Jesus would have sacrificed to be the savior of the world ... even think of the most mundane things.
 - Ex. Good food, hygiene, having a family of his own, safety, comfort of his own bed, taking care of his mother which would have been his responsibility as the oldest son, making money, etc.
 - c. Paul picked up on this life of sacrifice ... read 2 Corinthians 12:14-15

14-15 Everything is in readiness now for this, my third visit to you. But don't worry about it; you won't have to put yourselves out. I'll be no more of a bother to you this time than on the other visits. I have no interest in what you have—only in you. Children shouldn't have to look out for their parents; parents look out for the children. I'd be most happy to empty my pockets, even mortgage my life, for your good. So how does it happen that the more I love you, the less I'm loved?

 - i. Paul had been accused of scamming the Corinthians, which deeply hurt him. As he prepared to visit again, he reminded them that not only did he make sacrifices to see them, but he would also gladly do it ... even give up his own life for them.
 - ii. Paul shows us the great lengths of sacrifice that sometimes we are called to as disciples of Christ.
 - d. Some thoughts to discuss:
 - i. Jesus was called to make a huge sacrifice by giving his own life. Over and over, he told would-be disciples and his own disciples that following him would require them to sacrifice themselves. (Read Matthew 8:18-22). The earliest disciples understood the sacrifice he called for. Just being a Christian could mean martyrdom, having your

property confiscated, imprisonment, etc. Considering the great deal of sacrifice that it took to be a Christian back then (and in some parts of the world now), do you feel like it is much of a sacrifice to be a Christian anymore?

- Pastor Matt says no ... it is super easy to be a Christian and get by with sacrificing little or nothing.
 - ii. What have you sacrificed as part of your Christian faith?
 - iii. How did it feel to make those sacrifices?
 - iv. Do you think your sacrifice made someone else's life better or even yours?
 - v. How do you balance sacrificing yourself without neglecting good self-care? In other words, we all need to look out for our own well-being, but we also have to sacrifice ... how do we figure out which one is more important at any given time?
- e. Read the following:

"Do you remember the generosity towards us of Jesus Christ, Lord of us all? He was rich beyond our telling, yet He became poor for your sakes so that His poverty might make you rich" (2 Cor. 8:9 Phillips). When the eternal Son of God stepped into time to be implanted into Mary's womb, He was in fact saying goodbye to all the wealth, splendor and glory which had been His with the Father for all eternity (John 17:5). He forsook all His possessions, "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:7).

Choosing to be born into a poor working-class home, the Architect of galaxies became a worker of wood in Joseph's carpenter shop. The townspeople heard Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Messiah's mission from the lips of Joseph's son, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor" (Luke 4:18,22). Jesus came as a poor man and remained poor in order to reach the poor. Untold millions have found their way to the Man born in a feeding trough who would never have gained admittance to a King's palace.

One would-be disciple must have been disappointed by Jesus' reply to His offer to follow Him: "Foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head" (Matt. 8:19-20). As He hung there on the cross, He watched the soldiers as they gambled for His only material possession, His cloak. Having nothing left to give in an earthly way, He gave up His life (John 19:23-24,30). – Jean Gibson

- i. What is God calling you to sacrifice today? You might think that you don't have much money, time, physical ability, gifts, etc. However, there are still a thousand and one ways to live sacrificially.
- ii. Name some ways you can live sacrificially for God and others this week?
- iii. What can we sacrifice as a group to make the world or someone's life better?
 - Suggestion: Bring an offering next week or buy stuff for the humane society and take it to them. Would need two people to ride with me and donate it.

MS and HS Small Groups Guide

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2. Prayer (ask if anyone wants anything in particular prayed for)
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 - a. Does anyone remember the sermon well enough to summarize it for the group?
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 - b. We're talking about sacrifice. What is a "sacrifice?"
 - i. ... *an act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.*
 - c. Jesus lived a life of sacrifice. Read Mark 10:32-34 (MSG).

32-34 Back on the road, they set out for Jerusalem. Jesus had a head start on them, and they were following, puzzled and not just a little afraid. He took the Twelve and began again to go over what to expect next. "Listen to me carefully. We're on our way up to Jerusalem. When we get there, the Son of Man will be betrayed to the religious leaders and scholars. They will sentence him to death. Then they will hand him over to the Romans, who will mock and spit on him, give him the third degree, and kill him. After three days he will rise alive."

 - i. Take one minute and discuss all the things that Jesus would have sacrificed to be the savior of the world ... even think of the most mundane things.
 - Ex. Good food, hygiene, having a family of his own, safety, comfort of his own bed, taking care of his mother which would have been his responsibility as the oldest son, making money, etc.
 - d. Some thoughts to discuss:
 - i. What can you sacrifice for others or for God?
 - Hanging out with friends to help a grandparent or neighbor, part of your money to donate to church or some charity, give up some time to talk to a new kid at school or in your neighborhood, etc.
 - ii. What have other people sacrificed for you? What have other people done for you?
 - Parents who have come to a lot of sports to watch you, friends who have taken the time to listen to you when you're having a bad day, etc.
 - iii. Name one thing you can sacrifice this week to make the world or someone's life better?
 - iv. What can we sacrifice as a group to make the world or someone's life better?
 - Suggestion: Bring an offering next week or buy stuff for the humane society and take it to them. Would need two people to ride with me and donate it.
4. Come back together as a whole group (MS together and HS together) and watch video ...
5. Closing prayer