

# “Be holy for I am holy”

Radio message (Sunday) 2/6/2011

## 1. The Christian walk is a walk of sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2 (New International Version, ©2010)

Romans 12

### A Living Sacrifice

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform 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.

We have made this Gospel into a gospel of ease; of feel good.

We are more concerned about making people feel comfortable in sin than telling people that they need to repent of their sin.

### [Luke 13:3](#)

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you **will all likewise perish.**

[Luke 13:2-4](#) (in Context) [Luke 13](#) (Whole Chapter)

No one is perfect; no one has “arrived”

“For all have sinned and all fall short of the glory of God”

If this life is suppose to be a life of ease and feel good and not of sacrifice, then why did Jesus say that we are to pick up our cross daily and follow him and if we don’t we can not be His disciples.

Then why did Jesus tell us to count the cost, why did Jesus tell us that unless we loose our life here we can not be His disciples, and if we hold to our lives here we will face destruction (we will loose our life)

## **Luke 9:57-62 (New International Version, ©2010)**

### **The Cost of Following Jesus**

<sup>57</sup> As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

<sup>58</sup> Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

<sup>59</sup> He said to another man, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

<sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

<sup>61</sup> Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."

<sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

## **Luke 14:16-24 (New International Version, ©2010)**

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup> At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

<sup>18</sup> "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

<sup>19</sup> "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

<sup>20</sup> "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

<sup>21</sup> "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

<sup>22</sup> "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

<sup>23</sup> "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. <sup>24</sup> I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

In the words of John Piper, "we are called to live a painful life." This life style is virtually undetectable in this country but yet the word of God tells us that true followers of Jesus Christ will walk this way.

## **2 Corinthians 5:15 (New International Version, ©2010)**

<sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

## **1 Corinthians 15:19**

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be **pitied**.

## **Luke 14:25-33 (New International Version, ©2010)**

### **The Cost of Being a Disciple**

<sup>25</sup> Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup> "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

<sup>31</sup> "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

## **Matthew 19:23-30 (New International Version, ©2010)**

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

<sup>27</sup> Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

<sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife<sup>[a]</sup> or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

## **2.) This Christian walk is to be a walk of servitude**

### **John 13:15 (New International Version, ©2010)**

<sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

### **1 Peter 2:21 (New International Version, ©2010)**

<sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

### **Philippians 2:5-15 (New International Version, ©2010)**

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

### **Mark 9:35 (New International Version, ©2010)**

<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

### **Matthew 20:28**

just as the Son of Man did not come to be **served**, but to **serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

### 3.) It is a walk of Choices

Every day I make the choice of whom I will serve and so do you. God tells us in His word that we have to make a choice that we will serve Him

#### **Jeremiah 21:8-10 (New International Version, ©2010)**

<sup>8</sup> "Furthermore, tell the people, 'This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death.

#### **Deuteronomy 30:19**

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you **life** and death, blessings and curses. Now **choose life**, so that you and your children may live

[Deuteronomy 30:18-20](#) (in Context) [Deuteronomy 30](#) (Whole Chapter)

#### **2 Kings 18:32**

until I come and take you to a land like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. **Choose life** and not death!

### **Deuteronomy 28**

#### **Blessings for Obedience**

<sup>1</sup> If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. <sup>2</sup> All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

<sup>3</sup> You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

<sup>4</sup> The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

<sup>5</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

<sup>6</sup> You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in obedience to him. <sup>10</sup> Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. <sup>11</sup> The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. <sup>13</sup> The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. <sup>14</sup> Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

## **Deuteronomy 28:15-25 (New International Version, ©2010)**

### **Curses for Disobedience**

<sup>15</sup> However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:

<sup>16</sup> You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.

<sup>17</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed.

<sup>18</sup> The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

<sup>19</sup> You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>21</sup> The LORD will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering

to possess. <sup>22</sup> The LORD will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish. <sup>23</sup> The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. <sup>24</sup> The LORD will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven, and you will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms on earth.