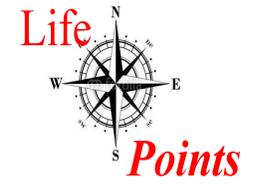


March 11, 2018
How Great A Sacrifice
Jim Edwards



Sermon Notes

The word sacrifice brings many different thoughts and emotions. What comes to your mind when you hear this word? How would you define sacrifice? What are the positive and negative connotations when it comes to sacrifice?

Read John 12: 1-7. Discuss the points of this passage. This perfume was very valuable and may have cost a years wage. It was a great sacrifice. Why do you think this story was included in the text? In what ways can we learn from this story?

As we make sacrifices, we may not be able to see what God is doing or understand what he has planned, through our human eyes.

Would anyone care to share a story when you or anyone you know made a sacrifice? What impact did this particular sacrifice have on your life?

In what ways can wealth and comfort get in the way of being willing to be sacrificial?

Read Romans 12:2. In what ways can this passage help guide us in the area of sacrifice? What areas of personal conflict surface when we begin to act on this passage?

What connection does being willing to be sacrificial and our relationship to Christ have, if any?

How can living sacrificially transform a person's life and heart?

Read Luke 5:11, 5:28 and Luke 18:18-30

What are the major differences between the responses of the apostles and the rich young ruler?

Why was leaving everything easier for the apostles and more difficult for the rich man?

What has to happen in us so that we respond like those who left everything to follow Jesus?

We are in the process of the Breakthrough Initiative. All of us are being challenged to be generous and sacrificial. It takes a *whole church family* attitude to accomplish our goal. In what ways can our sacrificial giving for the next 2 years impact the future generations?

Take a glance in to the future. The year is 2033. What do you see happening at First Church of God?

What kinds of ministry, staff changes, community involvement, or personal transformation result from the sacrifices that people are making today?

Why is it so important for us to be concerned about the future of not only our church building, but more importantly the people that will fill the church?

If this is what we see happening, what will it take between now and then to accomplish the many things that have been mentioned?

Read Jeremiah 29:11. Now read Jeremiah 29:1. Even though these words in verse 11 were spoken to the above group of people, what can we gain from this passage that is applicable to our individual lives as well as our church body?

The items of our Breakthrough Initiative have been on the hearts of many for several years. It is believed that this is the Lord's timing to move us in to the next phase of our church body.

In the upcoming week, ask God to guide you and lead you. Continue to pray for the Breakthrough Initiative and all God has in store for us.