

Sacrifice Series 5

THE GREATEST SACRIFICE

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June 1, 2014

Sermon in a sentence: No sacrifice we make could ever compare to the Greatest Sacrifice in history: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Scriptures: Phil. 2:1-11

Phil. 2:1-11 NASB Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;** ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,** ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ **Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.** ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

By way of reminder, we have spoken of sacrifice as the act of giving up something of value to gain something we deem to be of greater value.

In baseball we speak of a “sacrifice fly”, where a player intentionally hits a fly ball into the outfield to allow a player on third base to score, even though he himself will be out. Chess players will often “sacrifice” a pawn to take a piece of higher value.

When we speak of the Greatest Sacrifice, (which clearly points us to Jesus Christ), we are actually speaking of more than just Calvary. There are many sacrifices that Jesus made, long before He came to the cross.

- 1. In coming to Earth as a human being, Jesus sacrificed His comfortable, pain free, disease free existence in the spirit realm. In that realm, there is no need for oxygen, livable temperatures, water, sleep or food: the things human beings need for survival. He willingly took on mortal flesh that is subject to all of these needs, frailties and limitations.**
- 2. He sacrificed His inability to be tempted by sin (James 1:13) and “... has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15b NASB)**
- 3. He sacrificed the ability to command and control the actions of everything and everyone around Himself. In Heaven, He reigned supreme. On Earth, He was despised, rejected, held in the lowest regard (Is. 53:3), disobeyed and scorned. His will was *not* being done on Earth as it is in Heaven (Matt. 6:10).**
- 4. He sacrificed His omnipotence, which would have allowed Him to annihilate His torturers with a single thought or word, and instead “... endured the cross....” (Heb. 12:2)**
- 5. He sacrificed His sinless existence, which afforded Him unfettered access, unity and oneness with His**

Father, and instead *became* sin on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:21a), forsaken by His Father (Matt. 27:46)

6. He sacrificed eternal life to suffer a torturous human death on the cross (Heb. 2:9)

“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

All of the sacrifices Jesus made culminated in His crucifixion – the most horrid torment He could possibly have endured, both physically and spiritually. But He made these sacrifices to gain something He deemed to be of greater value: the redemption (purchase) of our souls from Satan.

He deemed it more important for us to have eternal life, than for Him to avoid the agony of His own death.

The life, death, and burial of Jesus Christ is the Greatest Sacrifice ever made in human history!