

## Sacrifice/Serving God First

Philippians 2:5-8

<sup>5</sup> **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Galatians 4:4-5

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son, born of a woman**, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

- ***What are we being asked to sacrifice in contrast?***

Hebrews 2:9 But we do see **Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels**, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

- ***What position can we not give up in our lives?***

Matthew 8:20 Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but **the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**"

- ***What comforts do we have to ensure ourselves of?***

Haggai 1:1-6

**1** In the second year of Darius the king, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'This people says, "The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt.'"" <sup>3</sup> Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, <sup>4</sup> **"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?"** <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts, "Consider your ways! <sup>6</sup> "You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes."

- ***Were the Jews instructed to build houses?***

Ezekiel 28:25-26

<sup>25</sup> 'Thus says the Lord God, "When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and will manifest My holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they will live in their land which I gave to My servant Jacob. <sup>26</sup> **"They will live in it securely; and they will build houses, plant vineyards and live securely** when I execute judgments upon all who scorn them round about them. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God.'"

- ***What was the trouble in Haggai's day?***

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1 Timothy 1:15-16

<sup>15</sup> It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world** to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. <sup>16</sup> Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

- ***Jesus gave up the glories of heaven to come into the world as a man. Where are we willing to go for others?***

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, **the just for the unjust**, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

- ***Jesus deserved none of the cross, we did. What rights are we willing to give up to bring others to Christ?***

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor**, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

- ***We can not contemplate what Jesus gave up to live as a man. What are we willing to give up for the sake of others?***

Isaiah 53

**53** Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

<sup>4</sup> Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?

<sup>9</sup> His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

<sup>10</sup> But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

<sup>11</sup> As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

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<sup>12</sup> Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong;  
Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors;  
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

- ***Jesus had creation turn its wrath on Him. What offenses are we willing to bear for God?***

Romans 12:1 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 **rational** service.

Note: I like the marginal translation of the NKJV. The Greek word is *logikós* (reason, pertaining to reason). The NKJV translation of it as “reasonable” uses a word that has come to mean accommodative rather than based on reason. The ESV and NASB translations of “spiritual” really do not relate to the original Greek.

- ***What in our lives don't we need to sacrifice based on Jesus' example?***