



APRIL 24, 2016

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DAVID

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WEEK 4



## OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something you would say you have sacrificed in your life? What did that mean for you?
2. What is something that would be very difficult to give up – something that if you were asked to give it up, you're not sure that you could?
3. What does commitment mean to you? To what are you committed?
4. Have you ever been changed by a commitment that you've made? (It can be any type of commitment; it does not have to be financial.)

## KEY POINTS

- Do not give to the Lord that which costs you nothing. - 2 Samuel 24:18-25
- Sacrifice begins in the heart. - 1 Samuel 13:1-14
- Give from what you have. - Exodus 35:20-29; 36:1-7
- Sacrifice is dying to self and not for the faint of heart. - 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 16-18

## FURTHER DISCUSSION FROM SCRIPTURE

Read each Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the lines provided before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.



## SACRIFICE BEGINS IN THE HEART

### 1 Samuel 13:1-14

Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-two years. Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Mikdash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes. Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, "Let the Hebrews hear!" So all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become obnoxious to the Philistines." And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikdash, east of Beth Aven. When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

"What have you done?" asked Samuel.

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

"You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

**Sacrifice begins in the heart.** Did you see what happened to Saul here? He basically tried to "pay God off!" How many times have we tried to do this? We have disobeyed God or possibly haven't truly trusted Him, and then we just try to "give" and "compensate" our way out of actually having to love and trust God. This is not someone who is after God's own heart. This is not someone who is living in light of eternity and thus willing to sacrifice their own thoughts and ideas and preferences for the preferences of God. David is the only person in Scripture who is referenced as being "a man after God's own heart," and it is mentioned twice – once here in 1 Samuel and then again in Acts 13 as Paul is telling the story of God appointing David king, and he shares that God said this, "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I have asked him to do."

2. Do you do everything God is asking you to do? If not, it isn't a problem with your pocketbook likely. It is likely a problem with your heart. Sacrifice begins in the heart... What is an area of your life in which you aren't obeying God with a sacrifice He is asking you to make?

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## GIVE FROM WHAT YOU HAVE

### Exodus 35:20-29; 36:1-7

Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord. Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or the other durable leather brought them. Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the Lord, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun—blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do...

...So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded." Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done." Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: "No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.

**Give from what you have.** The remarkable thing in this passage is the multitude of different types of gifts that were given for the construction of the tabernacle – jewelry, garments, anointing oil, skilled labor. Whatever each person had to offer, they gave. So much so, that Moses had to stop the giving because it was too much!

3. Often at times, our first objection when being asked to give is to say that we can't give because we don't have. Or "if I had more, I would give more." Or "if I had a job that paid better, then I could give." If, if, if. Well, do we still eat? Do we still clothe ourselves? Do we tell our mouth and our body that if we had money, then we would eat and clothe? No, we somehow figure out how to do those things with our resources. But why do we see giving in a different way? Why isn't our giving as high a priority as other things so much so that we would see it as something that we would do regardless of our financial picture? "Not having" or "Not having as much" are no excuses not to give. God isn't even asking us to give in that way. He is asking us to give from what we have. So, what do you have, and are you giving it?

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4. Take money off the table for a second. Think about the other resources that you have purchased or that you have in your possession – your home, your clothes, your electronics, your season tickets to the Bears or Rams or to some other team that you love. Do you honor God with those resources by giving them over to Him? Do you use your home as a resource for the Lord? How could you better do that? Do you lend your car anytime someone is without? When you have extra tickets, do you try and sell them, or do you see how you might be able to give them away to someone who might be blessed by them? How are you honoring the Lord with what you have?

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## SACRIFICE IS DYING TO SELF AND NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

### 2 Corinthians 4:7-12; 16-18

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you...

...Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**Sacrifice is dying to self and not for the faint of heart.** Staying financially afloat isn't easy in this world we live in. Particularly when other people are involved like a spouse or children or even other friends, parents, or relatives to consider, money can often at times cause our relationships to go sideways quite quickly. It becomes an unhealthy measure of so many things – success, worthiness, security, admiration, indebtedness. The way our life is entangled with money can beat us up from all sides sometimes. But as Paul shares, "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." Sacrifice is one of the key markers of how much we value God above ourselves – our ability or inability to be selfless and give ourselves and our lives over to Him. But it isn't easy. If it was easy, then Jesus wouldn't have talked about it so much in the Scriptures. He knew it would be hard. But it's that important.

5. How could your Small Group / Sunday School class be praying for you as you make your Uncharted commitment this next week? How could they be praying for you that God would grant you the strength you need to follow Him on the path He would have for you and that He would renew you day by day, as Paul shares in this passage?

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MAY 1, 2016

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# COMMITMENT SUNDAY

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WEEK 5

