

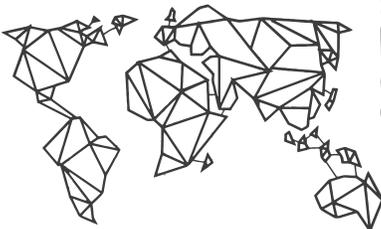
¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *On Being a Servant of God—Revised Ed.* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), 37.

² Jim Elliot, "Quotable Quotes," <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/2919-he-is-no-fool-who-gives-what-he-cannot-keep> (Accessed January 31, 2013).

Notes:

GREAT COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

HOMEWORK PACKET TWENTY- NINE



LEADERS SACRIFICE

*If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.*¹

C.T. Studd

*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*²

Jim Elliot

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:62 [NIV]

LEADING SACRIFICIALLY

Jesus taught that every one of His followers must live selflessly and sacrificially, giving up their own interests to accomplish His (Lk. 16:24-26). Mary, Jesus' mother, demonstrated this sacrificial service for God. Mary was a virgin engaged to be married to Joseph. The angel Gabriel appeared to her, with a message from God, telling her that she would become pregnant—miraculously—by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that her son, Jesus, would be the Son of God—the promised Messiah (Lk. 1:30-33). She knew that the obvious accusation against her would be adultery, something that would most likely end her engagement to Joseph and could even carry with it a sentence of death (Lev. 20:10). Knowing the personal and social ramifications of such a calling, she replied, "I am the Lord's servant ... may it be to me as you have said" (Lk. 1:38 NIV). She was willing to sacrifice her dreams, her future, her social status and even her life for God's will. Due to her beautiful, servant's heart of obedience, God used her to bring Jesus into this world. Mary was willing to sacrifice everything for God and because of that, God used her in a greater way than she could ever have imagined. Leadership requires sacrifice and you must be willing, as Mary was, to give up personal comfort,

³ Mark Batterson, *All In: You Are One Decision Away From a Totally Different Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 13.

⁴ Dictionary.com, *Sacrifice definition*, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/sacrifice?s=t> (accessed January 22, 2013).

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recognition, plans, hopes, dreams, benefits—anything—to accomplish the purpose He has called you to.

SACRIFICIAL LIFE AND MINISTRY

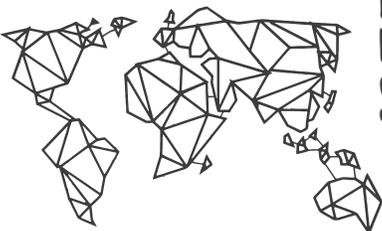
Mark Batterson writes:

When did we start believing that God wants to send us to safe places to do easy things? That faithfulness is holding the fort? That playing it safe is safe? That there is any greater privilege than sacrifice? That radical is anything but normal? Jesus didn't die to keep us safe. He died to make us dangerous. Faithfulness is not holding the fort. It's storming the gates of hell.³

If you want to turn this world upside down for Christ you will have to be ready to sacrifice everything for Him. Dictionary.com defines sacrifice as, "the surrender or destruction of something prized or desirable for the sake of something considered as having a higher or more pressing claim."⁴ The Old Testament describes multiple types of sacrifice, including mandatory offerings (the sin offering, Lev. 4:1-35; and trespass offering, Lev.5:1-19) and freewill offerings (the burnt offering, Lev.1:1-17; grain offering, Lev.2:1-6; peace (or fellowship) offering, Lev. 3:1-17; and drink offering, Num. 15:10), which Scripture describes as a sweet aroma to the Lord. Christ's sacrifice has covered all our sins (Heb. 10:14) and the only sacrifice that remains for believers is the continual freewill offering of our lives (Rom. 12:1)! We are called to give up and surrender all that we hold valuable and desirable for Christ's sake, as He has a more pressing claim.

→ **What comes to mind when you think of sacrifice?**

→ **What has been your history of sacrifice? Are you quick to surrender all to Christ or do you try to hold on tight (possibly rationalizing, and/or making excuses)?**



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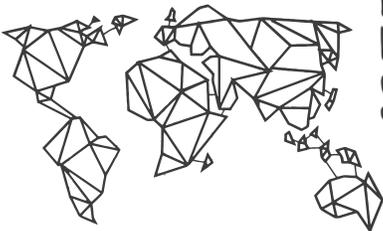
CALLED TO SACRIFICE

Rom. 12:1 says sacrificial living is your reasonable act of worship. The word reasonable, comes from the Greek word, *logikos*—from where we get the word logical. It is logical for the Christian to live sacrificially for the Lord in light of all He has done for us. Conversely, living selfishly is illogical. The believer who has surrendered to Christ's Lordship should live fully surrendered to Him, giving up their own hopes, dreams, desires, future and life, for Him. God doesn't expect sacrifice to be easy. Remember His words to Abraham, in Gen. 22:2, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering..." (NIV). He will often ask you, "Take your [fill in the blank], your only [fill in the blank], the [fill in the blank] that you love and sacrifice [him/her/them/it] for Me." Sacrifice can be painful, but this is where true life is found (Matt. 16:25), and God will reward such sacrifice many times over (Mk. 10:29-31). God will also use your sacrifices greatly. Each of us individually, and all the nations of the earth collectively, have been blessed by Abraham's obedience (Gen. 22:18) and God will work mightily in and through you as you live sacrificially as well.

- **Have you neglected to live sacrificially? How so?**

- **What is God calling you to surrender to Him that you are, at this moment, unwilling to give Him control over?**

- **List 5 things below that you could fill in the blanks above with.**
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.



⁵ A.W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous* (Cumbria, UK: OM Publishing, 1993), 64.

⁶ Southcrest, "Missions," <http://www.southcrest.org/#/for-the-world> (Accessed February 7, 2013).

Notes:

→ **What have been the results of sacrifices you've made in the past?**

MINISTRY REQUIRES SACRIFICE

Ministry is sacrificial by nature. It is a call to give up your life sacrificially for God and people. Sacrifice and service naturally flow from authentic faith (Phil. 2:17). Unfortunately, many seem more concerned with their own desires than Christ's (Phil. 2:21). Jesus commanded leaders to lead sacrificially and modeled this for us (Matt. 20:25-28). We are also called to, "walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." (Eph. 5:2). Remember Tozer's statement:

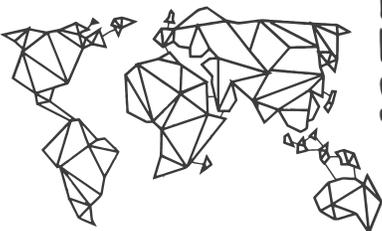
*In every Christians heart there is a cross and a throne and the Christian is on the throne till he puts himself on the cross; if he refuses the cross he remains on the throne. Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among believers today. We want to be saved but insist Christ do all the dying.*⁵

Southcrest Church shares the following story:

*A missionary in Africa was once asked if he really liked what he was doing. His response was shocking. "Do I like this work?" he said, "No. My wife and I do not like dirt. We have reasonably refined sensibilities. We do not like crawling into vile huts through goat refuse ... But is a man to do nothing for Christ he does not like? God pity him, if not. Liking or disliking has nothing to do with it. We have orders to 'Go' and we go. Love constrains us."*⁶

We must live lives of dying to ourselves to live for Him (Gal. 2:20). Practicing self denial has been a spiritual discipline of godly men and women for all of Christian history. A godly leader will deny self and sacrifice for Christ, dying to self to serve Him and others in ministry.

→ **Have you ever perceived ministry differently than above, or have you always viewed ministry as a call to serve and sacrifice? Explain.**



⁷ John C. Maxwell, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You—10th Anniversary Edition* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2007), 219.

Notes:

→ Explain how a Christian leader from your past sacrificed for you in a way that impacted your life.

→ List 3 ways you can practice denying self on a regular basis. (Ex. fasting, giving up some form of entertainment, etc..)

1.

2.

3.

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES SACRIFICE

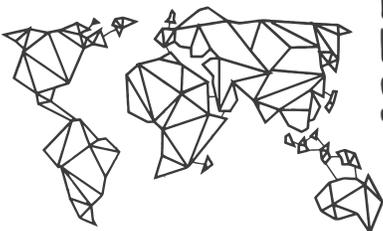
Maxwell calls this the *Law of Sacrifice*.⁷ He says the following about sacrifice:

The Law of Sacrifice says you have to give up to go up ... When all else fails, make another sacrifice ... The Law of Sacrifice maintains that one sacrifice seldom brings success ... Sacrifice is an ongoing process, not a one time payment ... The higher the level of leadership people want to reach, the greater the sacrifices they will have to make.

→ Do you agree with Maxwell's statements? Why or why not?

Ministry generally, and leadership specifically, require sacrifice. You must remember, however, that the rewards of serving God far outweigh any sacrifice (Rom. 8:18). David Livingstone, who lost his wife on the mission field and ended up dying there too, recognized this, writing:

People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of the great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own reward of healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with such a word, such a view, and such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege.



⁸ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*, Mystudybible.com Library, <http://www.mystudybible.com/> (accessed August 12, 2013).

⁹ George Barna, *Revolutionary Parenting: Raising Your Kids to Become Spiritual Champions* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2007).

Notes:

*Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger now and then, with a foregoing of the common conveniences and charities of this life, may make us pause and cause the spirit to waver and sink; but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall hereafter be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk when we remember the great sacrifice which He made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us.*⁸

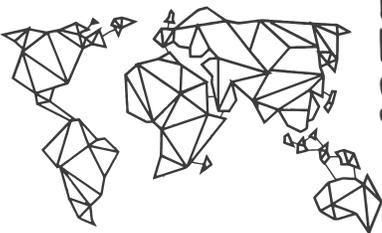
Jesus lived sacrificially for the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:1-2) and we should follow His example. Sacrifice joyfully for the Lord!

→ **How do your sacrifices for God compare to His for you?**

SACRIFICE DO'S AND DON'T'S

It is important that you sacrifice only what is yours to sacrifice; remember David's example (2 Sam. 24:18-25). Sacrifice according to God's will and His Word; remember Saul's bad example (1 Sam. 13:8-14). Don't sacrifice your intimacy with God, because apart from Him you can do nothing (Jn. 15:5). Don't sacrifice your family; remember Jephthah's terrible example in Judges 11:29-40 (and as crazy as that story is, many leaders do about the same today, figuratively sacrificing their families for ministry). Don't sacrifice your marriage, and what rightfully belongs to your spouse (1 Cor. 7:4). Sacrifice for your spouse not from them (Eph. 5:25). Don't sacrifice your kids; your home, family and children must be in order before your ministry leadership responsibilities (1 Tim. 3:4). Barna tells us, in *Revolutionary Parenting*,⁹ that kids need, on average one and a half to two hours of quality time each day; do not sacrifice away from that time. There are times when ministry schedules are intense, just make sure to prioritize giving your kids the time they need over time.

Once your areas of responsibility are met, be excited about sacrificing joyfully of what's left. Sacrifice your time, talent, and treasure for God, knowing He will reward it all! Serve God and others by laying down your life, desires, and comfort for theirs. Remember Jn. 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." We should sacrifice continually (Rom. 12:1). We should sacrifice as unto the Lord, not men (Col. 3:23). We should sacrifice



¹⁰ Bryan M. Liftin, *Getting to Know the Church Fathers: An Evangelical Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), 50.

Notes:

joyfully (2 Cor. 9:6-8). We should sacrifice humbly (Jn. 13:14-15). A leader must lay down everything for Christ, their family, and those they lead (in that order). Sacrifice is not comfortable, but it is how God works in you and through you.

- **Have you found yourself sacrificing in ways that are harmful? How has this impacted your ministry, your family, and other areas of your life?**

- **Read 2 Tim.4:6-8. What vision drove Paul to sacrifice?**

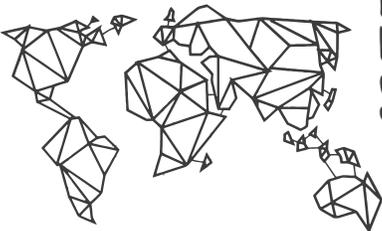
- **Read 2 Cor. 11:23-28. How can you follow Paul's sacrificial example?**

YOUR SACRIFICE IS REWARDED

God uses your sacrifices in building His kingdom (1 Peter 2:5). Jesus explained the fruit of sacrifice concerning His sacrifice (Jn. 12:24), and that same principle holds for us (John 12:25-26). God will use your sacrifices greatly and reward you immensely as well. Remember what Jesus says, as recorded in Luke's gospel account (18:29-30):

Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, approached his own martyrdom, telling his followers, "Pray that I'll have strength in my soul and in my physical body, so that I won't just give lip service to martyrdom ... I don't want to merely call myself a Christian—I want to back it up when it counts."¹⁰ He went on to be martyred, being eaten alive by wild animals in the Colosseum in Rome, subjecting Himself willingly to this fate, knowing



¹¹ Bryan M. Liftin, *Getting to Know the Church Fathers: An Evangelical Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), 50.

¹² The Christian Post, "CP World," <http://www.christianpost.com/news/shocking-figures-reveal-105000-christians-martyred-each-year-50976/> (Accessed August 24, 2013).

¹³ Find out more at the Voice of the Martyrs website: www.persecution.com

¹⁴ Mark Batterson, *All In: You Are One Decision Away From a Totally Different Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 13.

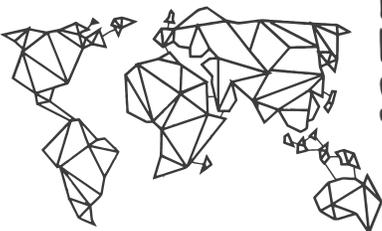
¹⁵ Chip Ingram, *Good to Great in God's Eyes: Ten Practices Great Christians Have in Common* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2007), 163.

Notes:

that, "Christianity's true power is discovered only when it is hated by the world."¹¹ His story is not unique; more than 100,000 Christians are being killed for their faith each year.¹² This equates to about 1 martyr every 5 minutes. (Imagine how many have died for their faith since you began going working through this week's homework). Remember their sacrifices when you're tempted to begrudge your own. Remember also to pray for and support the persecuted church around the world, as they pray for you and you to stand strong in your faith, too.¹³

Whatever your sacrifices may include—from simply giving up the pleasures of this world, to persecution and even martyrdom—God will use them for His glory. Revelation 5:12 describes one-hundred-million angels singing, "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise" (NIV). He is worthy of any and every sacrifice I could ever make. Remember Batterson's challenge, "When did we start believing ... that there is any greater privilege than sacrifice?"¹⁴ Jesus sacrificed everything for us and we now have the opportunity to live our lives sacrificially for Him! Lev. 6:12 tells us that the fire on the alter was not to go out but to be kept burning continually. Similarly, Christians should be so ablaze for Christ that they will be ready to sacrifice for Him any time and anywhere, constantly giving God the living sacrifice described in Rom. 12:1. Chip Ingram asks, "How great is your love? You can easily answer that question by looking at how much you sacrifice for the Lord."¹⁵

Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!



Notes:

ACT NOW

FIRE UP THE ALTAR

- **Read Rom. 12:1-2 and 2 Tim. 2:22. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to surrender each of the areas below to Him.**
 - » Future (plans, personal hopes, dreams, desires, etc.):

 - » Image (how you view yourself, how you want others to view you):

 - » Time (work, personal/"free" time, etc.):

 - » Possessions:

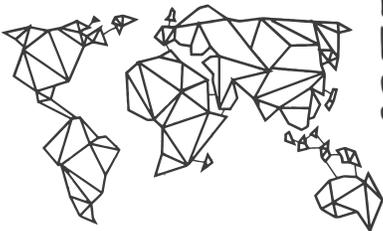
 - » Relationships (making the most of friendships for His Kingdom, or incorrect expectations, unhealthy relationships, etc.):

 - » Education/job/career:

 - » Ministry expectations:

 - » Hobbies/interests:

 - » Anything other area of your life that comes to mind:





¹⁶ G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

PERSONAL GROWTH

→ Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

→ List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal¹⁶ for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.

SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

Action plan:

→ How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

→ Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

→ How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

→ List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.

