

all in

Week 4: Identify Your Sacrifice

Gather Differently

Up to this point, we have been focusing primarily on individual approaches to being “all in” with Jesus. However, there is a communal aspect hardwired into every follower of Jesus. An integral part of our spiritual DNA is the desire to follow Jesus with other people. Scripture itself points to the exponential power realized when multiple followers of Jesus join to live on mission.

This week you are encouraged to decide together with your family or with your small group what place in McLean County (this could be a school, a business, a government entity, an organization, or a nonprofit) that you together will commit to loving and serving for the next 4-6 months. The Holy Spirit influence through a group of Jesus followers committing together to love and serve is exponential!

Grow Intentionally

R. K. Hughes says that when it comes to giving, loving, and serving other people, *“The posture of our heart makes all the difference.”* Spend some time in the following passages:

Acts 2:43-46 Acts 4:32-37 Acts 17:1-9

- What heart postures are present within these passages?
- In particular, how did Jesus followers love and serve one another?
- How did these acts of sacrifice and love effect the community?

The Lord measures giving not by what we give, but by what we keep for ourselves. Take some time to read and consider the following passages:

1 Corinthians 13:3 Matthew 6:21

- Take some time to pray, and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you might be hoarding or keeping things for yourself.
- Next, write down anything and everything that comes to mind.

Dan Akin, theologian and pastor, reminds us that God's purpose for money, time, and talents is ultimately for the spiritual growth of every Jesus follower. Meander through the following tenants about giving and sacrifice.

1. God has the right to whatever and whenever
2. Every spending decision is a spiritual decision
3. You and I cannot fake stewardship and genuine sacrifice
 - Which of these is easiest for you to accept?
 - Which one is the hardest for you to accept?
 - How might you make changes in your giving?

In order to identify the sacrifice that we as a family or group of people are called to commit to, it's helpful first, to understand the notion of being a graceful giver. This type of giving shifts our hearts and minds away from rules-based religious habits toward a posture of dynamic, life-giving generosity. Consider the following ways to shift your heart posture:

- God wants to grow us spiritually by growing our faith - Luke 6:38, Philippians 4:19
- God wants to finance His earthly ministry through us for His glory and our good - Malachi 3:10
- God wants to unite Christians and non-Christians who have needs with those who have surplus - 2 Corinthians 8:14-15
- God wants to reveal clearly His infinite power - Deuteronomy 8:18
- God wants to help give direction in our lives - Proverbs 3:5-6
- God wants to fulfill His promise to supply our needs - Matthew 6:31-33

Go Missionally

This entire series is about getting you to **MOVE into action with your witness.**

Specifically, how will you, your family, and your small group love and serve McLean County with the posture of a graceful giver?

What organization are you willing to commit to loving and serving over the next 4-6 months?

Fill out the Missional Action Plan (M.A.P.) found on Eastviewresources.com