

DEFINING SACRIFICE

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“Sacrifice is giving up something you love, for something you love more.” – David Welsh

Describe a time when a friend or family member made a major sacrifice for you. How did it make you feel? Was it hard to receive? How was it perceived by others?



Read Matthew 26:6-13

- 1) Who was criticizing Mary for her lavish gift to Jesus? Do you think they truly understood Jesus was going to die in less than one week? Do you think Mary understood this? Where was the disciple's focus compared to Mary's?
- 2) Have you ever been criticized for your sacrifice to Christ? Have you held back giving, whether it was money, time, or your talents, because of fear of what others might think or say?
- 3) Was the real issue concern about saving money for the poor, or what others thought about Mary's extravagant gift? Was there jealousy over Mary's devotion to Christ? How did Jesus defend Mary's actions and how does this relate to your giving from the heart?
- 4) Read and discuss the two quotes below:
“If we really care about the welfare of others, our greatest concern will be for their eternal destiny.” - Jack Cottrell

“People need more than bread, they need the Bread of Life. People need more than a new wardrobe, they need to put on Christ. People need more than shelter, they need the Good Shepherd.” - David Welsh
- 5) In this “me”centered world, how often do you sacrifice what you want for the sake of someone else or the kingdom of God?

APPLICATION:

- Test God! Tithe 10% in March and see if God blesses you.
- Learn to sacrifice in small areas. Give up something you want each day this week (i.e. latte, ice cream, new shoes, etc). Ask God to help you put your hope in Him and take small steps to be obedient to Him.